

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE



Holiday Insert ... page 11

Cameron's Waypage 10

AVILA UNIVERSITY

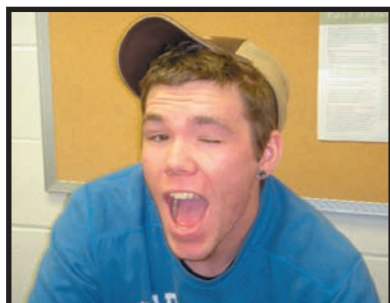
VOLUME XV

ISSUE 3



Inside Look at Red-head's Life

Emily Rae Hoskins was born on February 24, 1987 in Shawnee, Kansas. Shawnee is where she grew up to be an outstanding, educated, music loving, and very relaxed individual. Upon graduating Shawnee Mission Northwest high school she received a basketball scholarship to attend Avila University. When enrolling for freshman year of college she decided to declare her major as media communications towards the branch of advertising and public relations. With this major she was required to take a journalism course where she was given the divine opportunity to express herself through writing for the school newspaper that was called the Talon. Personally Emily thinks that journalists out in the real world are annoying but she knows they have to be that way in order to get the job done right with accuracy. Now as an established journalist she is able to write about many different subjects that appeal to her. She likes to write about anything from controversial issues, to simple everyday hobbies that the average person would love to enjoy. To be specific, last year she wrote about the legalization of marijuana in a certain state in the United States and just recently informed Avila University's student body about scrap booking and how they could get involved. She also took a more serious side when she wrote about hurricane Katrina and the quilts that were being made to aid the victims. Emily likes to get the reader comfortable with the article and the information included. She wants the reader to not only be entertained by it but also stop and think about it during or after reading it. She likes to put a lot of herself into the story as much as possible so her stories can be differentiated from everybody else's. She likes to present information both with an objective view and others using her opinion. She also uses her grand reporting skills by tracking down the school's psychology club to obtain information and help expose the group to the University. Hoskins really enjoys bringing out her sarcastic side in her writing in hopes of amusing the reader. Emily likes the certain power that she, herself holds with her words on paper, but occasionally worries about what would be considered crossing the line. And she covered a story about an artist that came to Avila that particularly loved to cross that line. That's why she chose to stick with non-controversial stories this semester. But of course that could all change in time. She truly enjoyed Avila University last year and is excited about continuing her education at the collegiate level.



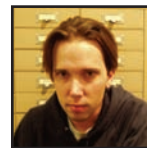
1st year student and photographer for the Talon, Andy Olsen is leaving Avila University for a higher calling. This December Andy will be heading off to the United States Marine Corps to help defend our country. Congrats to our friend Andy. Be Safe!

TALON

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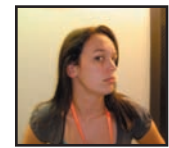
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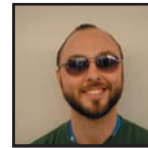
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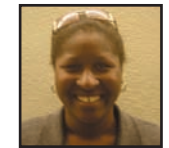
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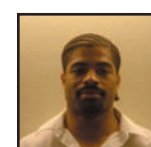
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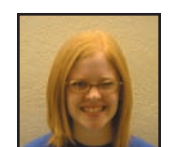
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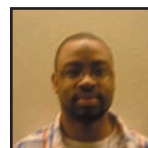
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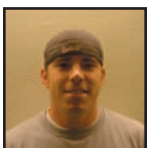
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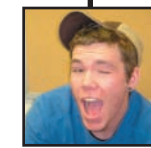
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WE HAVE BIG
TALONS

Election Recap Revealing

By: Catlin Stephenson

The results are in and the Democrats have recaptured power in Congress. After 12 long years and an election night that seemed to last 12 years, Democrats are the majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Many political analysts projected that Democrats would take the House, but expected the Senate to remain in the hands of Republicans. The change in power is being seen as the voters' way of saying that they are fed up with a scandal-ridden Congress and the war in Iraq. The change in power can also be seen as a referendum on President Bush's performance. As the elections grew nearer, Republicans began to distance themselves from Bush as allegiance with the president turned into a negative, leaving little doubt that many Republicans lost elections because of the public's unhappiness with the president and his policies.

The change in majority and power in Congress will have great affect on the president and his agenda for the next two years. No longer will Congress be a rubber stamp for President Bush. His agenda will have to change or be lost in committees and subcommittees. Bush will also have to learn to "make nice" with Democratic leaders, something he has already begun to do. Recently Bush has reached out to Democratic leaders by inviting them to the White House. It's a start, but the president and other Republicans will have to take a new approach to policy making—they will have to learn to compromise.

Amendment Two Slipped Through...

By: Ben Kopp

The way to prevent a bad result is to prevent its cause from occurring. When the causes of negative and unwanted results are known long before they are meant to take affect, it seems only natural and logical that such origins would never be permitted to exist in the first place. In a world where people still visit zoos that have lost accreditation, however, the majority cannot always be expected to take the natural and logical course of action. As was recently evidenced, elections are not exceptions to this rule.

On the eighth of November 2006, a slim majority approved an amendment to the Missouri Constitution that would both legalize and aid embryonic stem cell research. Many supporters of the amendment would like to believe that such research will help lead to treatments and cures of several ailments despite evidence to the contrary, but even if such ends do occur, are the means justified? Take, for example, another innovation that would help a community with one of its major problems. Let us say this innovation is an odorless, tasteless, clear poison meant to be placed on the food of a dangerous animal—wolf, bear, etc.—whose population has gotten out of control. The one law to prevent abuse states that this specific poison may not be used against humans. People accept the poison because it will remove the problem, but a few years later, there are several mysterious deaths. While it is not the same poison to kill these people, a mad chemist has gone and altered the poison ever-so-slightly to make it entirely different and just as lethal. Stem cell research works in the same manner. Not even its supporters want abuse, but someone will always find a loophole and do every abusive thing in their power through that loophole. At the top of these abuses, everyone will see human cloning and genetic engineering. Years will probably pass before any such successes are seen, but the fact of the matter is that now we have the possibility. Everything has to start with one individual who innocently wishes to remove defects from his or her child before birth. After this event becomes far more common, people will begin to see children whose genes and gender were specifically chosen before birth. It is shortly after this time that people will decide that the legalization of human cloning is not such a bad idea, they legalize cloning, and eventually the technology leaks into a "black market."

Yes, this is the state to which we have come. We began with adult stem cell research—which has been beneficial—and moved to embryonic stem cell research; within the next few decades, we will see the rise of genetic engineering followed by human cloning. Though some would argue that a ban on human cloning was established, keep in mind that loopholes were created and may very well be abused in the future. The time to block the slippery slope of stem cell research and human cloning has surely passed with the amendment to allow experimentations that have been unsuccessful in the past. Let us just hope that it does not force everyone to trip and fall into the deepest bowels of Hell.

Pelosi Takes Over with Storm

By: Catlin Stephenson

For the first time in 217 years the House gavel will be in a woman's hands. Nancy Pelosi will be the first woman Speaker of the House in this country's history.

Pelosi has served the 8th District of California for 10 terms. Along the way she has learned how to succeed in the world of politics, which is traditionally a man's world. As Speaker, she is third in line to the presidency, which is as close as any woman has been to the job in the United States.

Pelosi hasn't experienced success by standing in the shadows. While she has been taunted as the "latte liberal" by President Bush, she has not backed down and has no problem dishing it out either. Pelosi has often called Bush "incompetent" and has said that he is "in denial and dangerous."

Pelosi has also said that president Bush can expect change now that Democrats are in power. Her goals for her first 100 hours of her speakership include pushing to have the minimum wage raised to \$7.25, calling for the implementation of all 9/11 Commission recommendations on national security, eliminating corporate subsidies for oil companies, allowing the government to negotiate Medicare drug prices, imposing new restrictions on lobbyists, cutting interest rates on college loans and supporting embryonic stem-cell research (cnn.com).

While the country may not know what to expect from a female Speaker of the House, we can be sure that Pelosi is taking her post seriously and setting the bar high for future female speakers.

news

Avila Campus Picks Election Results

The Introduction to Journalism class conducted election polls to parallel those of Gallop, Associated Press, PEW and other prognosticators. Surprisingly the results mirrored the actual results far more closely than many of the traditional polling outlets. Informal polls were conducted by journalism students conducted on October 30, 2006 of 100 randomly selected participants comprised of students, faculty, and employees. Although not scientific, the poll was similar in that it included questions used in the national polls.

For Talent 48%
For McCaskill 52%

For Stem Cell 54%
Against Stem Cell 46%

For Tobacco Tax 65%
Against Tobacco Tax 35%

Voting 58%
Not Voting 42%

The polling results do not reflect the opinions or positions of Avila University, its employees, the Talon Editorial Board, or the Talon staff and should not be viewed as endorsements for any of the candidates or positions.

World AIDS Day A Success

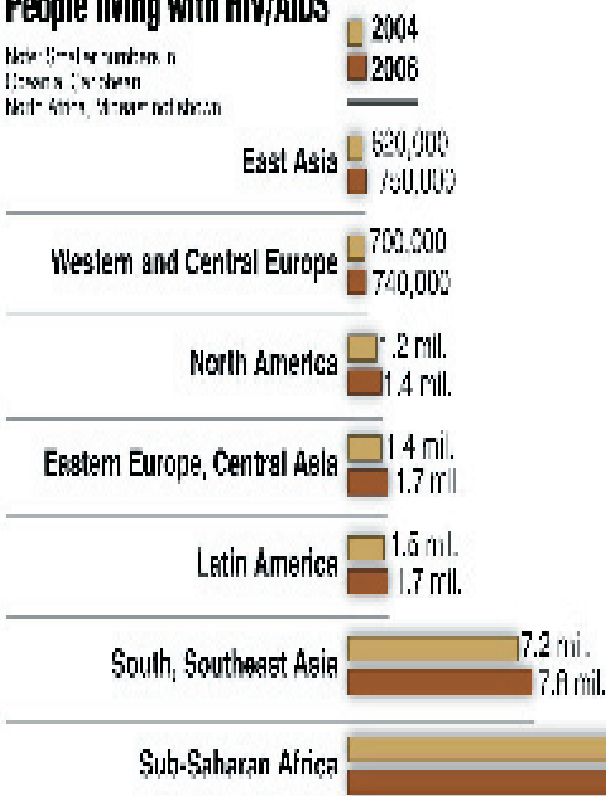
World AIDS Day began in 1988. Every year World AIDS Day holds a different message, this years theme is "Stop SIDS; Keep the Promise – Accountability. To help in the fight against AIDS go to fightaidsathome.scripps.edu or any other donation site.

AIDS epidemic still on the rise

Changes in the world epidemic since 2004, according to new United Nations figures:

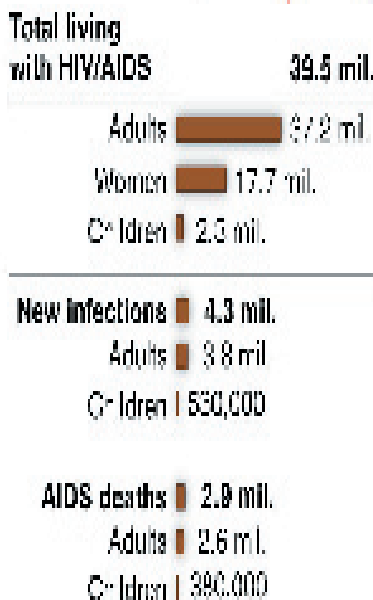
People living with HIV/AIDS

Note: Smaller numbers in thousands, rounded



Source: UNAIDS • Graphic: John Schickel, Marlene Lytle

Global summary 2006



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Pope visits Turkey

Pope Benedict XVI's first papal visit to a predominantly Muslim nation will also be a pilgrimage to Christianity's last tomb in Turkey.



Nov. 28, Ankara

• Meets with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, other officials

Nov. 29, Ephesus and Istanbul

• Holy Mass in Ephesus where the Virgin Mary, Apostle Paul once lived

• Meets with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, spiritual leader of world's Orthodox Christians

Nov. 30, Istanbul

• Visits Blue Mosque, meets with Armenian Apostolic Patriarch Mesrob II, Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan, Grand Rabbi of Turkey



Turkey's other religious groups

98 percent of Turkey's 70 million population is Muslim, mostly Sunni



Source: The Nation, Foreign Press Report 2005, AP
Graphic: Elizabeth Melsert, Marlene Lytle

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Breaking Ground Yet Again

By: Chadd Rivera

Martin Luther King Jr. spent his life striving toward equality and now 38 years after his tragic death, he is still breaking ground. On November 14, 2006 ground was broken for the memorial of Martin Luther King Jr. The memorial will make King the first African American to be immortalized in the National Mall, placing him along side George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson.

The memorial will be built on a four-acre site between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial, near the site where King delivered his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington in 1963.

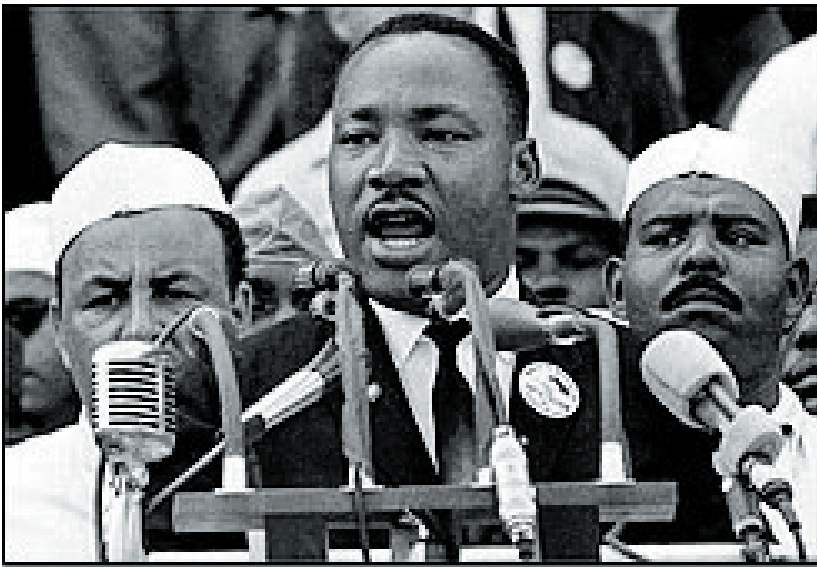
The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial started in 1996 when legislation passed and signed the establishment of a memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington, D.C. The design for the memorial was chosen from an international contest, consisting of over 900 entries.

The memorial for Martin Luther King Jr. will contain many elements. The memorial will consist of a Mountain of Despair, a Water Wall of Quotes, the Stone of Hope, a visitor center, and niches for reflection, all of which is overlooking the water.

The Martin Luther King Jr. memorial is scheduled to open in 2008; however, the \$100 million needed for this project has not yet totally been funded. Organizers have raised nearly two thirds of the cost and are still searching for the difference.

Martin Luther King Jr. spent 39 short years on this Earth in search of a better life, not for him, but for everyone. This memorial will insure that years from now, long after our generation has passed, people will know his word and his message. Immortalizing him is a step toward the hope that one day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream will be fully realized.

To help this great cause you can go to www.buildthedream.org for more information.



Martin Luther King giving a speech on the steps of the Lincon Memorial

Art Therapy Rewards

By: Patrick Devero

The Avila Art Therapy Organization was started almost three years ago by Nannie Mead, Sybil Paris-Noble, Tabitha Harris, and Leslie Thacker. There are roughly eleven members. The goals of the organization are to maintain a connection between all students interested in art therapy, educate oneself about art therapy, and educate the public about art therapy.

On October 28th the Avila Art Therapy Organization held a special event. They made quilts to donate to Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. Nannie Mead, President of the Avila Art Therapy Organization, said "It was a huge success and we were encouraged by many to make it an annual event." Many non-members participated in making a total of two quilts.

Next up for the organization is concentrating on personal final projects and finals. Next semester, the organization will be attending

the Kansas Art Therapy Association conference in April. This is to be held in Lawrence, Kansas. When asked what was the biggest thing the Avila Art Therapy Organization has ever done, President Nannie Mead replied, "We have completed two murals for patients recommended by the Alzheimer Association in connection with their Memory Room Project. We painted murals containing the memories of selected patients to help boost their thoughts about the past. The murals also help the families and staff feel better.

Quilt Day impacted a significant number of people as well." Some members of the AATO attended the American Art Therapy Conference from November 15 through November 19. This took place in New Orleans. During the five days, professionals shared their research in many areas of Art Therapy. Art Therapists from all over the world came to join in the mournful city of New Orleans for a common bond.

Avila University Theatre Company Promotes Enjoyment

By:Katie Feierabend

All students who are looking for an extracurricular activity that is laid back, fun, and welcome to anyone, check out the Avila University Theatre Company. You don't have to be a theatre major or an actor to join in the fun. The Avila University Theatre Company is student created and student run; this organization gives a chance to everyone across campus that is interested in theatre to participate with meetings and get-togethers.

Charlene Gould, a faculty advisor for The Avila University Theatre Company, described the enjoyable and comfortable atmosphere that this group provides for its members. When people think of theatre groups, usually they think of a tight group of friends that is intimidating and unapproachable, but this group is different.

Gould said of the group, "We are close knit and we're friends, but we don't want to be viewed as elite or exclusive...we want to be very welcoming. This group of students in particular are very welcoming and supportive of students who come in."

Most of what the organization does is plan upcoming events and parties where typically anyone can attend, whether a theatre major or not. If you feel too busy for extracurricular activities, know that the schedule for this organization is not rigid; in fact, there isn't really a schedule at all. Whenever the students feel they want to meet, they plan a meeting, usually by word of mouth. The meetings are very

relaxed and lead by the students.

Gould said of the organization, "Pretty much, they (the students) make all the decisions...it all comes from them because I don't think as the advisor I should be going around doing all the work for them...we keep it pretty simple."

If you are a new student or just want to try new things, the Avila University Theatre Company is a good place to start. It is also a great way to show appreciation and support for the students who work so hard to put on productions for the community.

Gould said, "I just want to emphasize the students and how great they are; they are just amazing people and it is a pleasure to come to work everyday and work with such great people; they are so dedicated and they know how to have some fun."

If you are not a part of the group and want to attend meetings or events, contact Charlene Gould, Robert Foulk, or any theatre member or look for flyers around campus for upcoming events. The Avila University Theatre Company would also like to remind students and faculty of the upcoming productions: Dead Man Walking will be performed March 1st through the 4th and Gypsy will be performed April 26th through the 29th.

Avila Singers Hit the High Notes

By: David Wilson

"Avila Singers is open to all students of Avila University," Dr. Tom Stolberg said. That is an all-inclusive statement and an open invitation that many students failed to receive this semester.

The opportunity to be involved in an organization of this merit and focus is the attraction of plenty of university students, and their hard work goes on display December 8, as they perform Handel's Messiah with the University Singers.

Don't get any ideas about joining now, perhaps the members who have practiced for two hours every week would be less than receptive.

"We rehearse every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in Foyle Chapel," Dr. Stolberg explained. In case it slipped by, the Avila Singers are a non-audition group, just regular students, who have a desire to be involved on campus by sharing their abilities through music. "Our goal is to provide a musical outlet for anyone interested in singing good music and building relationships with great people," Dr. Stolberg said.

The group offers something to the students who give of themselves to the Avila community, just as most students do. Whether, it is in the form of academia, athletics, or working to make tuition, the students, well the Avila singers give back. The organization allows students to better themselves and simply enjoy the present, while working toward the performance. Therefore, next semester, should music be one's cup of tea, come out and make some friends in this vivacious organization.

Collins Thompson Dormitory Progresses

By: Ann Marie Stevens

Has anyone wondered why construction has not begun? Well, I talked to Tim Bosler and he told me that construction cannot commence without a permit. In addition, I have been told that once the permit is acquired construction will be underway. The new dorms will hold 66 people, and the bedrooms are 9 by 11 feet suite style. Each suite will have four rooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchenette. The suite styled dorm will be overlooking the soccer field, and will be available to juniors and seniors. According to a recent e-mail from Greg Reichert, V.P. Advancement, the residence hall is named after Jeanne Collins Thompson an Avila alum.



Workers breaking ground on the new dorm site.



UCF Dorms Bring Amenity

By Noah Bierman
(MCT)



ORLANDO, Fla. Students bunking in the newest residence halls at the University of Central Florida soon will be tripping over Maggie Moo's ice cream, Subway sandwiches, Starbucks, Red Brick Oven Pizza, Barnes & Noble and other chain stores on their way out of their dorms.

At UCF and elsewhere, it's getting harder to tell the difference between the university and the mall.

Once content to sell sweat shirts from a generic campus store and meals from a mess hall, universities are entering into increasingly

sophisticated arrangements with national retailers, allowing more franchises directly on campus. At UCF, many of the stores set to open in the coming weeks are attached directly to the dorms, across from a basketball arena under construction with its own set of chain stores.

"This much impulse buying on the way to class could be hurtful," said Boston Russell, a 20-year-old sophomore from Longwood, Fla., who is among the first living in the new dorms on the edge of a pine forest in suburban Orlando.

The design, he said, is "letting these companies have a free shot at us when we walk by three times a day for class."

But Cheryl Adams, a senior from Daytona Beach, Fla., said most students are less skeptical: "Who doesn't like to shop?"

Puppets Reveal Inner Story

By: Jureau Bowman

When you think of puppets, the first thing that probably comes to mind is it is for kids. Well, a class full of adults got to become kids again when they visited the Puppetry Art Institute. They got to release their inner child by decorating a puppet head.

The group went as a field trip for Promotional Writing and was able to learn more about building a puppet.

When you first get there you have to pick out a puppet head. They have all sorts of puppets that are decorated to give you ideas or you may want to create your puppet from your own idea. The owners are there to help you get the materials you need to create your puppet. Once you paint your puppet then you



will take it to dry and pick out a sleeve that it will wear. You have then created a unique thing.

When the class first arrived they were expecting this to be boring and a waste of time, but once they walked around and got to see the amazing dolls they did not think it was too bad.

"I became more interested in creating my puppet when I got there," Janos Serfozo stated. "I chose my puppet so that I could be different."

The Puppetry Art Institute is a great place for young and old. If you are looking for entertainment for the kids and yourself this will be a great place to go and relax.

Mensa Challenges

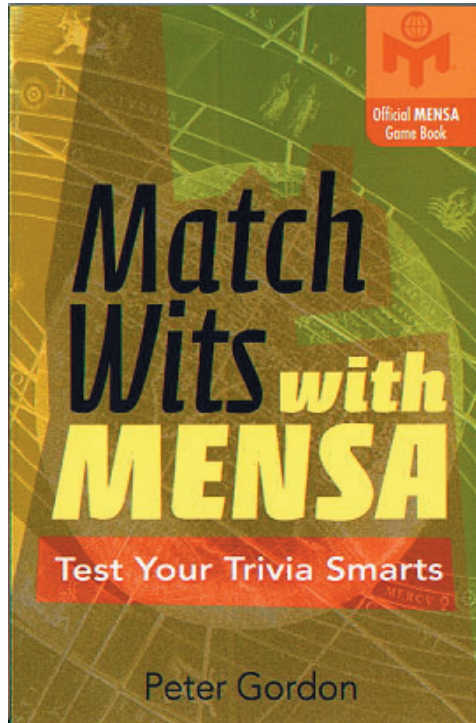
By: Waldo Martinez

As college students we may sometimes wonder a number score based on standardized tests of they may be able to qualify for the high IQ society

Mensa was founded by two men in England, in religion, and race where people with very high are to identify and foster human intelligence for uses of intelligence, and to provide a stimulating In order to qualify for Mensa one needs to score eight percent of the population. There are hundreds groups in Argentina, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Iceland.

Currently Mensa has several publications aimed official Mensa puzzle book “Mensa Challenge Your that can inspire and frustrate at the same time. involves numbers in a grid, *Alternate corners*, a path that never crosses or touches itself, and out until the blackened out squares make one long game book called “Match Wits With Mensa.” This and arts, sports and games, travel and geography, of members that got the answers correct. There questions that 90% of Mensa members got wrong.

There is also a board game that got an award by Mensa. This game is called Blockus. The game consists of a board where players can place pieces of assorted shapes on the board and strategize in order to trap other players, or place all their pieces first. The puzzle book, trivia book, and Blockus game are great gift ideas for the friend or loved one who may have a high I.Q.



campus

about our intelligence quotient, or I.Q. This is basically intelligence. If one scores very high in these tests known as Mensa.

1946, in order to have a social network free of politics, I.Q.s can get together. The society's current aims the benefit of humanity, to encourage research in the intellectual and social environment for its members. higher on the Mensa standardized test than ninety of international groups that belong to Mensa including Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Slovenia, and

at all readers in order to test their brainpower. The Brain Math And Logic Puzzles,” has several puzzles Some of these puzzles are named *Corral*, which which involves circles in a grid and one must follow *Nurikabe*, which involves a grid that one must blacken branching river. Mensa also has an official trivia book contains trivia in movies and television, music history and science, and its shows the percentage is also a section called *Brainbusters* that consists of



Avila Students Weather Storms

By: Janos Serfozo

Weather has seemed to be a challenging factor for many students at Avila. For the students that are from the Midwest it is not that big of a deal for the most part; they are already used to it. They are used to it because they grew up in this type of weather but some do not like the weather. However, the students that are not from Avila are having a lot more trouble adjusting to the weather. Many of the students from California that were interviewed were quick to answer and said, “it’s not California weather.”

Anthony Kelly said “my mom said it has been 80 degrees for a whole week straight and I’m in Missouri freezing.”

Even when it was not cold the weather is so sporadic. One day it will be really hot and then the next day it would rain really hard. Then it would be windy. I talked to some of the athletes and how it affected them. Many of the football players go out to practice with cold gear under armor and sweats when it’s cold. They also put on latex gloves on under their football gloves to keep their hands warm as well as multiple layers of socks. The soccer team also goes through challenges. Just like the football team, the soccer team

wears cold gear under armor and multiple layers of socks as well.

“It’s hard to breathe when its cold,” said Earnest Jones. When it rains both the football and soccer teams practice in the gym because of how damaged the fields get from the rain.

Avila Production Students ROCK OUTPOST

By: Chris Williamson with Simon Meade

Students of Avila’s Film and Digital Media Production program shot a music video for hard rock band Load Point Pull of Kansas City. The shoot took place at Outpost Pictures’ production studio located in Lenexa, KS. Students will also take part in ‘cutting’, or editing the final version of the video for submission to MTV. The video will also be included with Load Point Pull’s CD due for release on February 13, 2007.

Students arrived and took part in creating the atmosphere for the video, such as setting up the studio lighting to shoot red and blue rays of color straight up the white back wall. When the time came for cameras to roll the students loaded tape into the cameras, pointed them at the band, and pulled off their best shots. They also took photos, created special effects with a fog machine, and maneuvered colored lights for special effects while Avila production professor Dr. Ben Meade called

the shots. You could overhear him telling students not to be afraid to ‘get in their [the band’s] faces’ with the camera. Always the role model, Dr. Meade was seen climbing some very steep stairs up a tall platform with his camera saying, “It’s a dirty job but someone’s got to do it!”

An inspired Load Point Pull had ‘loads’ of fun mugging for the cameras. Avila student Brindy Lasiter said this about the bands attitude, “All of the band members were very nice and appreciated us helping them with their music video. They all thanked us afterward and even requested a photo with our group.”

At the end of the shoot everyone took part in breaking down all of the equipment. Although not the most fun part of the experience, professional crane operator Jason Cantu showed students how to break down the massive camera crane, called a ‘jib arm’ into its seventy-five or so different components.

The faces of the students showed an appreciation for the opportunity to take part in the making of this music video. Mike Franklin said that he, “...liked working with the cameras and the crew. It was a great learning experience and we received a lot of hands-on production experience. It’s a lot of hard work but was definitely fun work.”



How I Met a Rock Star, Again

By: Laurie Evans

Okay, so, I didn't meet Bono or that guy from Coldplay, so I guess I didn't meet a rock star by conventional purposes; but still, in my world, I met a rock star. My best friend's favorite band came to town the week of her birthday. Being a music fiend and a good friend I bought her tickets and we drove to Lawrence to see We Are Scientists. After making sure that we arrived early to get a good spot [front row], we stood around and waited for the action to begin.

I had seen We Are Scientists last March when they came to the Record Bar in Kansas City and I was lucky enough to get a picture and have a brief conversation with the lead singer, Keith Murray. Unfortunately, the bad thing about disposable cameras is sometimes all the pictures don't develop.

This time I made sure to bring a digital camera that would capture my inevitable meeting with a rock star. Because I had seen them live before, I knew exactly where to stand so I could have a

photo opportunity with Mr. Murray as he jumped into the crowd to sing.

Soon came the time when he jumped into the mass of college students to work his 'rock star magic'. Frantically, my best friend and I started taking as many pictures as we could, hoping that I would be in at least one of them. Soon he came to stand directly next to me and talk to the crowd. At that moment, I snuck up on him and got him to take a picture with me. Yes, folks, I was that annoying girl with the camera taking pictures and sneaking around. As the camera took forever to take the photo he leaned in and told me that he had to get back on stage.

This, folks, is how I met a rock star, again.

The Decemberists: *The Crane Wife*

By: Laurie Evans

When the Decemberists announced their major label jump to Capitol Records, many had fears and questions. Would their music change? Would they finally get the public to recognize their talents? How would they follow up their critically acclaimed album *Picaresque*? As for right now, only one thing is for sure, the Decemberists are back and as good as before.

The Crane Wife marks the Decemberists fourth studio LP and it is good. Nothing has really changed in the world of the Decemberists. The biggest noticeable change would be



the cleaner sound, but other than that, they are the same story telling machine.

Most noticeably are 'Crane Wife 1, 2' and 'Crane Wife 3' about a man who fell in love with a crane woman after he had nurse an injured crane back to health. Crazy and catchy, just like the rest of the album. If crane people aren't your thing, there is 'The Perfect Crime #2', the perfect anthem to all things deviant. With it's driving guitar and bass lines, lead singer Colin Meloy describes a group of thieves cracking a safe and sings,

'It was the perfect, the perfect, the perfect, the perfect crime'.

The Decemberists always have something new and fun to listen to, whether it is a song about a crane woman or a jaded love song. *The Crane Wife* is definitely something to tell everybody about.

Emily Haines, *Knives Don't Have Your Back*

By: Laurie Evans

These days female solo artists have a bad image. If these females aren't musically similar to Gwen Stefani or Christina Aguilera, they are dismissed almost instantaneously. Unfortunately, really great artists are often overlooked and shelved. In the world of popular music, Emily Haines is one of these female solo artists. Though she is credible and well liked in the 'indie' genre due to her work with her band Metric and the Broken Social Scene, her music isn't popular on local 'alternative rock' radio stations.

Sultry, seductive, and quiet is her voice, which may come to shock Metric fans. Those who have listened to Metric songs 'Combat Baby' and 'Monster Hospital' will notice a distinct difference between the way Haines sings her point across. No longer are the days of the 'Indie Rocker Girl' with her band of boys playing driving guitar rhythms and bass lines. *Knives Don't Have Your Back* is filled with soft piano and a string section along with a few drums and guitars.

Though the music is similar but still quite different, the lyrics are typical of Haines. She sings about love, life, and death, like most artists, but her views are often different than most. In 'Reading In Bed', Haines sings about herself: 'With all the luck you've had why are your songs so sad?'

With the changing seasons, this album is perfect to listen to while taking a drive. Its sweet and melancholy melodies complement the cool breezes and falling snow. This album is a great album to listen to, no matter what the weather says.



Holiday Movie Review

By: Khasan Simmons



The month of December brings not only Christmas, but for college students the most important time for all, winter break, a month full of relaxation for students. If you truly want to enjoy the break you should see a few must see films that are worth your Christmas dollars.

I'm not a fan of holiday themed films, but if you are, here are some films that are out just in time for the holidays. Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito star in "Deck the Halls," a film about two neighbors competing to have the best Christmas lights display on the block. Tim Allen returns for a third time in "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause." This time around Santa battles Jack Frost, played by Martin Short. Santa has to save Christmas and prevent Jack Frost from ruining the holiday.

If you're in the mood for some laughs then here are a few choice comedies you should see "Let's Go to Prison," and "Borat." Even though Halloween is over there are still some films out this seasons for horror fans. Another remake to hit theaters is "Black Christmas," a slasher film about a stalker terrorizing a sorority house during Christmas.

My picks for the best movies to see this Christmas holiday are "The Pursuit of Happyness" and "We Are Marshall." Both films are based on true stories and are guaranteed to warm your heart during the cold Christmas. The Pursuit of Happyness stars Will Smith as Chris Gardener a struggling single father that makes a career change to provide for his five-year-old son. Chris Gardener pursues an internship at a highly competitive brokerage firm and has to overcome hardships.

"We Are Marshall" is based on the devastating plane crash that killed an entire football team of Marshall University. But one man takes over and resurrects the football program. Both films are feel good stories that I recommend the entire family to see.

Movie picks									
		Local Ave	Chicago Tribune	Chicago Morning News	Chicago Sun-Times	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	San Jose Mercury News
★ Outstanding	▲ New review								
■ Worthy effort									
▼ So-so									
■ A bomb									
Bobby	R		▼	■	■	-	▼	▼	■
Borat	R	★	★	■	★	★	★	★	■
Casino Royale	PG-13	★	★	★	■	★	■	■	■
Deck the Halls	PG	■	-	-	■	■	■	-	■
Deja Vu	PG-13	■	-	■	▼	▼	▼	■	▼
The Fountain	PG-13	▼		▼	▼	■	■	▼	■
Happy Feet	R	■	■	▼	★	★	■	-	▼
Tenacious D	R	▼	▼	■	▼	▼	▼	-	■

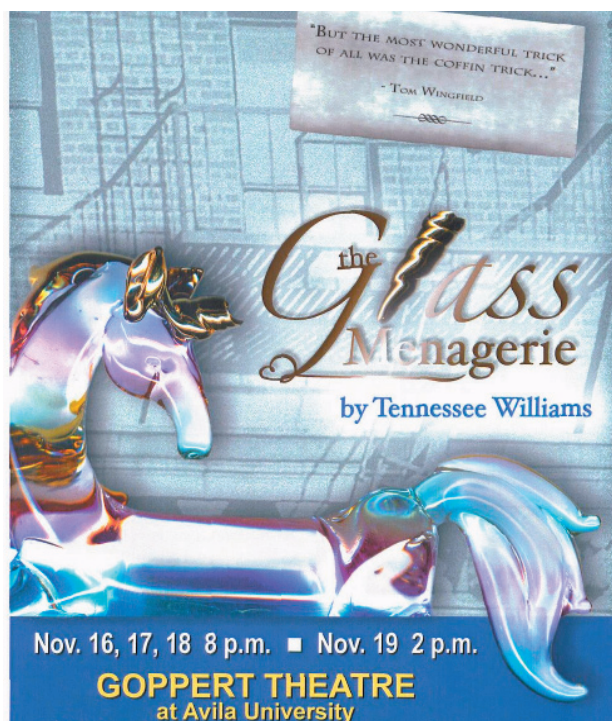
Gentlemen Callers Invited

By: Katie Feierabend

Avila's theatre production, The Glass Menagerie, a play written by Tennessee Williams, was performed the weekend of November 16 through 19 at the Goppert Theatre. I went so that I could finish an assignment for a class, not really expecting to relate to the play at all, especially since it was first performed in 1944. I was surprised to realize that over 60 years later, Tennessee Williams' play still portrayed much of what life can be like today, especially for a young college student. The Glass Menagerie is ultimately a sad tale of the plight of a family abandoned by its father. The story portrays a son's, Tom, eagerness to leave the constraints of a job he hates and an over-pushy mother, Amanda, who is determined to find a gentlemen caller for his crippled sister, Laura. Most people can connect with the son's desire to escape at one point or another; but what was most humorous was the fact that even today, with all the liberalism and feminism in America, mothers still seem to always be searching for a gentlemen caller for their daughters or, a lady caller for their sons, if you will. Perhaps it is just their nature for mother's to be on the constant lookout for a spouse for their children. Unfortunately, I speak with a familiarity with the subject. As I watched the play Sunday afternoon, I couldn't help but noticed the definite similarities between

my mother and Amanda and their sometimes seemingly desperate hunt for a gentlemen caller. Every boy that shows the slightest interest and every guy friend she knows is immediately and henceforth spoken of and praised. And, of course, she is just as pushy as Amanda, telling me to call and go to lunch with and hang out with these gentlemen callers. Whether secretly or candidly, mothers today in their nature are the same as they were 60 years ago, worrying about and searching for a companion for their children. Although it is possibly one of the most irritating traits, it can also be endearing. As my mother says, "A mother, by her nature, wants her children to be safe and secure and the world seems to be the opposite of that, harsh and callous. We have no control over the conditions of the world, so finding someone to keep our children safe and secure seems essential." As we see this paralleled in Tennessee Williams' play, perhaps we can conclude that this motherly nature cannot be changed.

In any case, Avila's production was very enjoyable. The actors' performances were good, the set was impressive, as well as the lighting. Congratulations to Avila's theatre department.





Cameron Cox



Cameron Cox and Berta (above and below)



Cameron Cox: No Obstacle too Difficult

By Janos Serfozo

Cameron Cox is a sophomore at Avila. He loves coming to school and his favorite class is history. He was born on February 21, 1986 where he did everything a kid was supposed to do. When he hit kindergarten his parents began to notice that he was stumbling a lot. His parents decided to take him to the hospital to make sure everything was okay. When they got to St. Joseph's hospital, the doctors said that nothing was wrong. His parents were convinced something was wrong so they tried several other hospitals where they too said nothing was wrong. Still convinced the parents took him to John Hopkins hospital in Boston, Massachusetts where they diagnosed him with Friedreich ataxia.

Friedreich ataxia is "an inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nervous system resulting in symptoms ranging from gait disturbance and speech problems to heart disease. It is named after the physician Nicholaus Friedreich, who first described the condition in the 1860s. "Ataxia," which refers to coordination problems such as clumsy or awkward movements and unsteadiness, occurs in many different diseases and conditions. The ataxia of Friedreich's ataxia results from the degeneration of nerve tissue in the spinal cord and of nerves that control muscle movement in the arms and legs. The spinal cord becomes thinner and nerve cells lose some of their myelin sheath — the insular covering on all nerve cells that helps conduct nerve impulses. Friedreich's ataxia, although rare, is the most prevalent inherited ataxia, affecting about 1 in every 50,000 people in the United States. Males and females are affected equally". (National institute of neurological disorders and stroke)

Cameron was able to walk all the way until the 3rd grade where he had to transfer to a walking belt. A walking belt is strapped around his waste and a Para helps him walk. A Para is a helper who assists in anything that Cameron or others like him need. When he got to 6th grade, Cameron started using a wheel chair, and in 10th grade he used an electric chair. High school was the place where people were less compassionate and a lot ruder toward Cameron. "They made fun of him and did not move aside in the hall way to let him get through" said Berta Washington. Washington has been Cameron's para since his freshman year in high school. Being the strong person he is, he just blew it off and didn't let any of that bother him. Cameron also goes by Cam. He got a new electric chair before he started at Avila. The new electric chair is customized especially for him. It has a brace in the back of the chair which he does not like because of how uncomfortable it is. However, he needs the brace because cam has 80 percent

Cameron's Picks

Video Game Picks

- Paper Mario Bros
- Super Smash Bros
- Grand Theft Auto

Favorite Movies:

- 007 Casino Royal
- Spiderman II
- Waterboy

Favorite TV Shows:

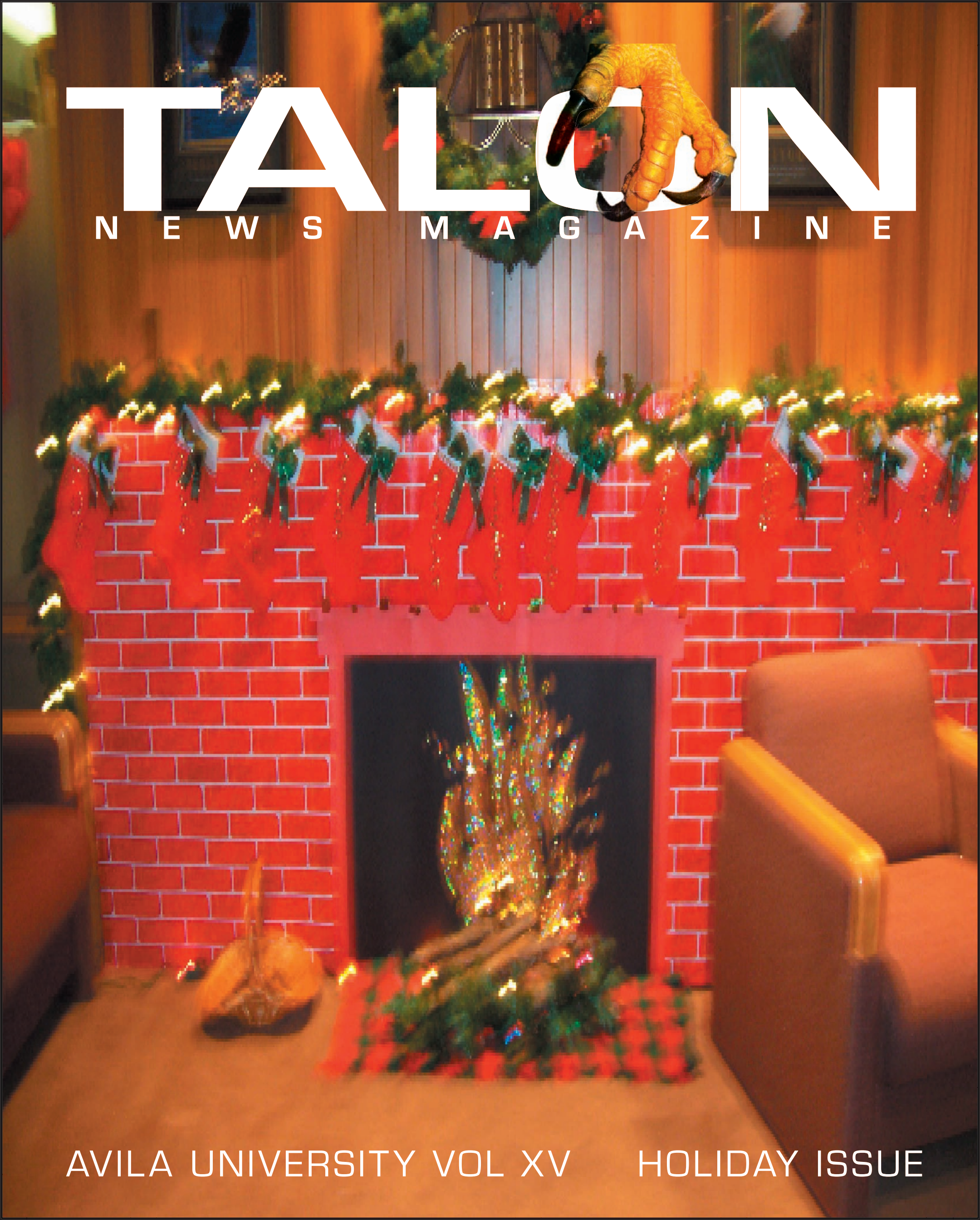
- WWF RAW
- Jeopardy
- Deal or No Deal
- Survivor

Christmas Wish List

- A Dormitory Fridge
- Deal or No Deal Electronic Game
- I-Hop Gift Card

TALON

N E W S M A G A Z I N E



AVILA UNIVERSITY VOL XV

HOLIDAY ISSUE

Holiday special

It is Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas

By Stephen Sharkey

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Well not quite yet, lets not forget about the day that kicks off the holiday seasons. Thanksgiving; what more can you say? Just the sound of the day makes your mouth start to salivate. One can get excited just thinking about the smell of the Butterball turkey roasting in the oven, the sweet aromas of your moms stuffing. That is just the beginning of the day, for men this is a day filled with football on T.V, because everyone knows that John Madden's six-legged turkey and football is like spaghetti and meatballs.

For the fans in Kansas City the Chiefs have a home game. After the football is all said and done, and mom has packed up the leftovers and put them in the fridge, the kick off to Christmas starts on the Plaza, where the city flips that magical switch to turn everyone into Christmas mode.



People waiting in line on balck Friday.

The day after thanksgiving marks the opening of Christmas shopping season. Moms across the world head to stores and fight over toys and presents for their children and loved ones. Within weeks, lights on houses pop up and the city is glowing brighter than Rudolph's nose. With every passing day kids become happier and anxious and grown men and women become kids again.

Dickens puts it best "Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the travelers, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!"

When you least expect it December 24 has crept up and Christmas is only a day away. On December 25 as Norman Vincent Peale once said "Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." Not too long after Christmas we say goodbye to the holiday season, by throwing extravagant parties to celebrate the coming of a new year. Where men, women, boys, and girls get a redo from the year before, where people kiss random people just because they know at midnight that they can start a new year with a clean sheet. Every year people make new resolutions and goals that they will give up on after about two weeks. To say goodbye and happy new years I will leave with the words of T.S Eliot "For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning."



Arrowhead Stadium

Sufjan Stevens, Songs For Christmas

By: Laurie Evans

All Christmas music is the same, right? There really isn't much innovation when it comes to the classics 'Silent Night' and 'Jingle Bells', but isn't that what makes tradition?

Sufjan Stevens manages to keep the traditional elements of holiday music but still adds his own spin on many songs. Not only does this five-disc Christmas album have the classics like 'What Child Is This?', 'Joy to the World,' and 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel,' but Stevens intertwines his own original songs like 'Get Behind Me Santa,' 'Did I Make You Cry on Christmas Day? (Well, You Deserved It!),' and 'Come on! Let's Boogey to the Elf Dance!'

Not everybody likes Christmas music, especially those who work in retail, but *Songs For Christmas* is worth listening to. With exception of the strictly traditional Christmas songs, many of Stevens's original songs aren't overwhelmingly holiday. Not only does it include five discs, but also original artwork, Christmas stickers, a Christmas songbook, and short stories written by Sufjan Stevens. This album is good to own, even if it is a Christmas album.



Top 10 Holiday Tunes

By: Chadd Rivera

Top 10 holiday tunes from ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)

1. "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)"
Performed by: Nat "King" Cole

2. "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"
Performed by: The Pretenders

3. "Winter Wonderland"
Performed by: Eurythmics

4. "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"
Performed by: Bruce Springsteen

5. "White Christmas"
Performed by: Bing Crosby

6. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!"
Performed by: Andy Williams

7. "Jingle Bell Rock"
Performed by: Bobby Helms

8. "Little Drummer Boy"
Performed by: The Harry Simeone Chorale & Orchestra

9. "Sleigh Ride"
Performed by: The Ronettes

10. "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer"
Performed by: Gene Autry

Most Recorded
Hoilday Song:

"White Christmas"
with well over 500
versions.

Oldest
Hoilday Song:

"Santa Claus Is Coming
to Town"
&
"Winter Wonderland"
(both 1934)

Cheers!

By: Michele Michalski

holiday special

Party! Party! Party! As the holiday's approach there will be many different school, work, family and friend holiday parties. Not to mention the need for college students to let loose after a rough semester and final exams. One thing to keep in mind during all of this is not to drink and drive.

All of us have said at one time, "Oh, I'm okay I only had one" or "I only live five minutes away." Even if these are true, and you think you're okay to drive, you might still keep in mind calling a cab or having a designated driver. The twenty dollars you will spend on the cab may seem like an inconvenience at the time, but compared to the thousands of dollars you will spend on an attorney and fines it is pocket change.

In a recent study done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Kansas was ranked 10th nationally for alcohol related traffic deaths. From Thanksgiving to New Years in 2003 they also reported that there were 1,579 alcohol related fatalities nationwide. In another study done by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism 1,400 college students aged 18-24 die each year from alcohol related injuries.

This holiday season authorities nationwide are running a campaign

from now until January 4 called, "You drink and drive, you lose." Authorities are using this to "beef-up" patrols and checkpoints in hopes to bring down these numbers. If you are arrested and charged for a DUI you will more than likely lose your license for a year. If your blood alcohol content is over .15 then you will receive jail time. Here are some facts that you will need to know:

*** Alcohol slows down your nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and affects your abilities to make judgments.**

* It takes the liver one hour to remove one unit of alcohol from the blood stream.

* Alcohol reaches the brain within 30 seconds of consumption.

* Drinking coffee does not sober you up.

*** Fizzy drinks such as spirits and champagnes absorb more quickly and increase drunken symptoms.**

Keep all of this in mind during your holiday season. Other drivers on the road are people too. They have friends and family whose lives would be forever changed because of your decision. Remember things like this can be avoided. Have fun but remember to be safe at the same time!



Check your teetotaler at the door!

By David Christopher Wilson

Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and John Wayne practically invented cool. Back when men drank scotch, wore suits everyday, and smoked cigarettes; these genuine characters defined an era, or two. Role models of their caliber no longer exist in this PC controlled environment called America. The church going, non-smoking, non-boozing, golden boys of the U.S. now lead the way. Thus, leaving the vice loving men to suffer socially. Or do they? In all actuality the social elite embrace Marlboro lights and cocktails. There is an aristocracy in the sophistication of alcohol and smoking contrary to the D.A.R.E. teachings that by association condemn users to death. There is no denying the coolness of cigarettes or the sensual appeal that they have over both sexes. Lighting a women's cigarette on cue is still as cool as it was when Tom Cruise threw the lit matchbook down the bar to the mysterious beauty playing hard to get. In truth, it was prohibition that changed the drinking habits in the U.S. "What the act did was drive the drinkers behind closed doors; it created secret societies with a special knock as their password to inebriation. The very illicitness of it all made the cocktail twice as alluring, twice as delectable," writes Salvatore Calabrese. The lack of masculine attitudes corrupted by the societal feminine needs for sensitivity have all but eliminated the man's man. Men today are supposed to show emotion and be extroverted in their feelings; this without question has hampered the alpha male leading to a direct correlation with the drinking habits of society. The upper echelon drinks of Single malt scotch and Grey Goose martinis have been traded in for hard lemonade and childish screwdrivers. Some of the most brilliant minds in history, for example, W.C. Fields, "had Martinis for breakfast." Therefore, has society gone too far for a resurrection of men being men? Hope is still dwelling that one morning the males of the greatest generation will be replicated in contemporary times with gentlemen wearing suits daily and ordering drinks fit for men, such as the Gibson, or the after dinner Brandy Alexander. Regardless, it is unfair to compare the boys of today's society to Bogart, Wayne, Davis Jr., and Sinatra, because they just don't stack up. Who can blame them as their Sinatra's and Humphrey Bogart's are Eminem and Clay Aiken, two of the available role models in the 21st century. Gentlemen need to be strong, supportive, providers who live with integrity and virtue, while treating women with great respect. As for the smoking and drinking; few binge drink with scotch or chain smoke with unfiltered cigarettes, leaving only moderation. So, be anti-drinking and driving, be anti-alcoholism, avoid binge drinking, avoid excessive smoking, but please don't be anti-alcohol. Cheers, happy holidays, and have fun with the family, sober.



Safe tips when throwing a party this Holiday Season

- * Never serve alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age, and never ask children to serve alcohol at parties.
- * Don't let guests mix their own drinks. Choosing a reliable "bartender" will help you keep track of the size and number of drinks that guests consume.
- * If a guest appears to be drinking a bit much, offer to freshen his or her drink with a virgin version.
- * Do not push drinks! Drinking at a party is not mandatory for having a good time.
- * Have fun – but not too much fun. To be a good host, you should stay within your limits in order to make sure your guests stay within theirs.
- * Close the bar 90 minutes before the party ends and serve a great dessert treat with coffee. Remember, only time sobers someone who has been drinking.
- * If, despite your efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink, drive them home, arrange for a ride with another guest who is sober, call a taxi, or invite them to stay over.

Holiday special

Black Friday Encouraging

By Kayle Walker

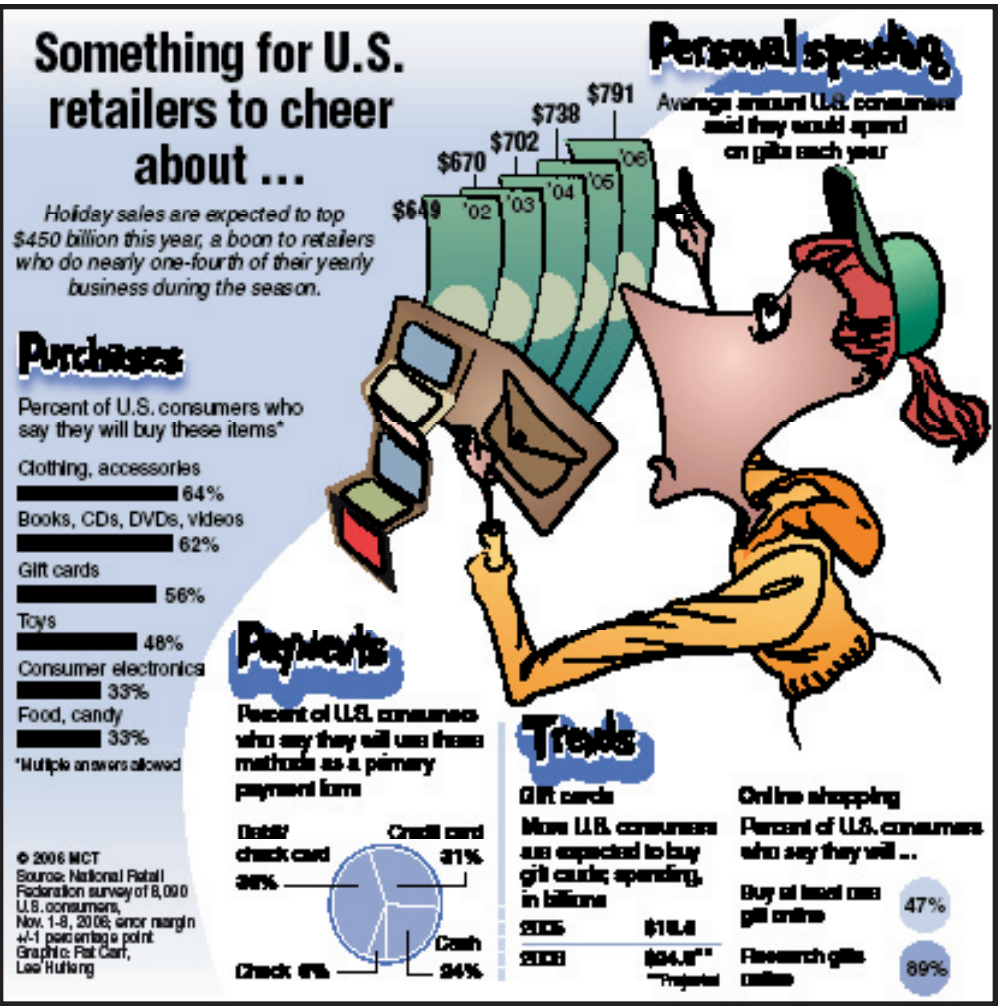
The Friday after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, kicks off the holiday shopping season. The term "Black Friday" means that retailers become profitable on that day, moving from "red" to "black" in their year's financial records. It is the busiest shopping day of the year in terms of traffic but it isn't necessarily the biggest day of the year in terms of dollars spent. The actual days that bring in the most money are the three or four days before Christmas day.



Home decorated for the Holidays

People seem to just want to get out and do something after the big turkey day. Some people take the Friday as a chance to relax from work, others put up Christmas decorations, and then there are the shoppers. Some shoppers are more serious than others, camping out overnight to be first in line for major deals. Others take their chances hitting stores mid-morning. No matter how intense the shopper, one thing will remain true for all—battles in store lines and parking lots are inevitable.

It's also becoming a trend to shop online. The Monday after Thanksgiving shoppers buy online what they couldn't buy in stores. Although "Cyber Monday" is growing in popularity, Wal-Mart still remains the top holiday-gift destination for U.S. shoppers.



Let's Play Together

By: Michael Franklin

November 19 marked the launch of the latest Nintendo gaming system. For the past year it was codename Revolution and last April the final name was released "Wii". The name--which is pronounced "we"--is meant to invoke the feeling of cooperation that comes when people play games together. Further, Nintendo said, the written name is meant to visually conjure up the image of two people standing together. The Wii is fun and interactive, no longer will you have to sit down to play video games; you now will be fully submersed in game play. With games like *Madden NFL 07*, on offense, you become the



Wii Remote



Nintendo Wii

Quarterback. You control the snap of the football and how hard and how far you throw the ball. In the *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess*, the Wii Remote and Nunchuk controllers are used for a variety of game activities from fishing to projectile-weapon aiming. The game also features a precise aiming control using the Wii Remote controller. You can use the controllers for sword

swings, spin attacks and shield shoves. When the Wii launches it will release 2 million units in North America alone, unlike the Sony PS3, which only released 2 million units worldwide. Either way, this Christmas will have highly sought after game systems which at first will be hard to get, but Nintendo promises to have plenty of units in time for Christmas.

PS3 Madness!!!!

By: Khasan Simmons

The PS3 hit stores Friday, November 17. This was the launch day that so many PS3 fans marked on their calendars. But is the PS3 worth the violence? Fans lined up outside local retail stores hours, days and even weeks in advance to get their hands the highly anticipated PS3. With so much anticipation in the air from PS3 fans all around the country, the excitement from fans quickly turned violent as lines and crowds continued outside retail stores. There were several reports of stores.



Playstation 3

There was a report from Putnam, Connecticut that two people that were lined up for the PS3. Also in Webster, Michael Penkala 21, chest and shoulder for the PS3. Also in people were arrested forced to use taser crowd that rushed a trampled in the parking lot during the crowd frenzy. A scuffle broke out, outside of a Wal-Mart in West Band, Wisconsin causing a man to run face first into a telephone pole.

Michael Franklin of Avila University works for Best Buy and witnessed the PS3 madness first hand. He said, "there were tickets handed out to customers that were in line first." Customers received the Playstation 3 on a first come first serve bases. Franklin also witnessed someone paying another person for a spot in line, and a man camping outside the store since Wednesday afternoon, even though the PS3 wasn't released until Friday. Franklin also went on to say that his store only received twenty-eight units that arrived an hour and a half late after the store opened at 9 a.m.

With the U.S only receiving between 150 to 200 thousand units of the PS3 this might have been the reason for all the PS3 madness around the country. Shipments for the PS3 might not arrive until early spring 2007, so if you missed your chance for the PS3 enjoy those PS2 games a little while longer.

Holiday special

Mark Your Calendars

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

Friday, December 15th

- GAP is looking for bands or soloists to play at the 2nd annual Avila Stock.
- If you are interested please fill out a form in the Student Life Office & submit a sample of your work.
- Submissions are due by 5:00PM.
- Concert takes place Wednesday, March 17th.

RESUME BASICS

Tuesday, January 23rd, NOON - HODES
Thursday, January 25th, 5:00PM - HODES

- Invest in your future & attend a session!
- Learn:
 - o Helpful hints about resumes & what to include!
 - o Strategies that can effectively promote you!
 - o Practical information & receive packets & samples

AVILA STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thursdays, 4:00PM - DUNN BROTHERS

- This is a student group that's discussing & getting involved in current social & political issues in Kansas City.
- Come join us!
- Meet weekly to discuss issues such as violence, poverty, the war in Iraq, women's issues, capital punishment, etc.
- For more information please contact Emilie Brumit: (913) 206-2489 or brumit177144@avila.edu

January 26-27, 2007

Alumni Weekend

- Friday, January 26 – Men's & Women's Alumni Scrimmage and Happy Hour
- Saturday, January 27 – Join us as we induct the newest member to the Avila Athletics Hall of Fame

February 9-10, 2007

Alumni Family Event at the Great Wolf Lodge

Bring your family and join your fellow Avila alumni for a weekend getaway at the Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City, KS.

To make reservations, call Great Wolf Lodge at (816) 608-9653 or book online at www.GreatWolfLodge.com. Be sure to mention that you are with the Avila Alumni Retreat (Group #6A502G) to receive the incredible rate of \$149 (+ taxes) per night.

PRACTICE

Tuesday, February 20th & Wednesday, February 28th

INTERVIEWS

March 24, 2007

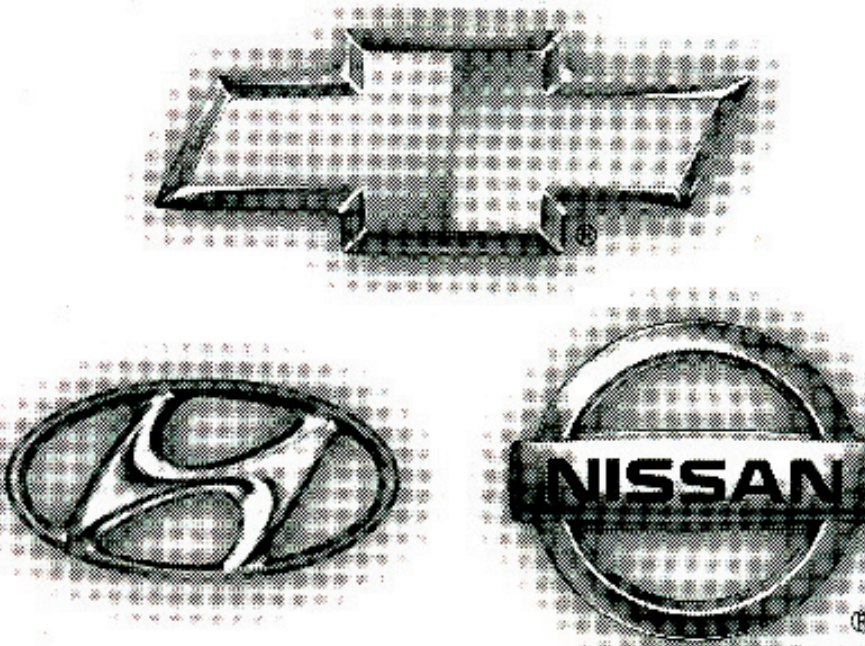
Avila Steer Dinner, Overland Park Sheraton

May 11, 2007

Graduation Sending Ceremony

May 12, 2007

Graduation



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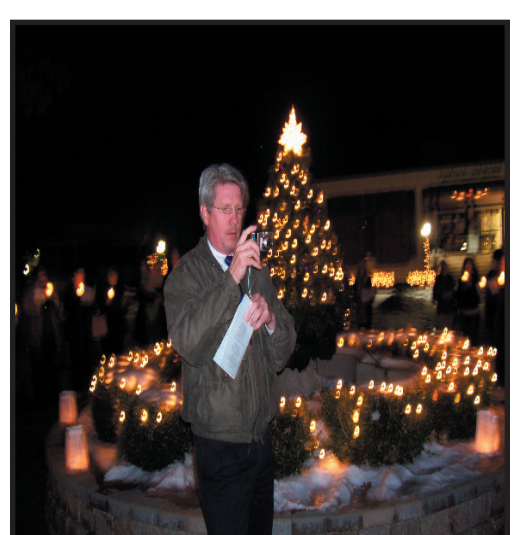
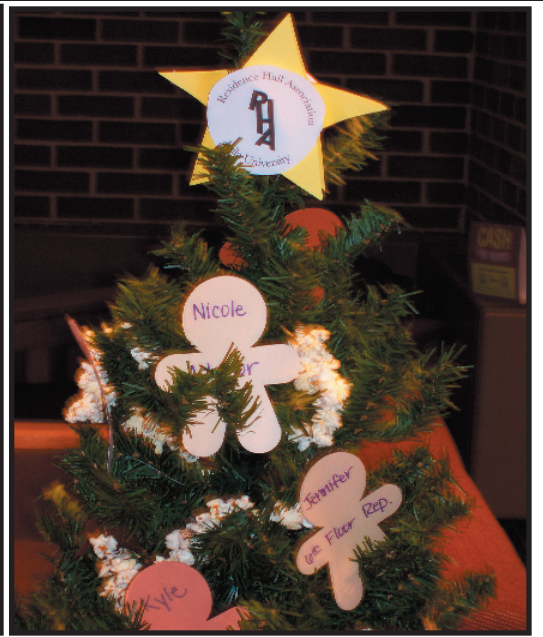
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Happy Holidays

Cocoas & Carols Enjoyed by All

By Ann Marie Stevens, and Jennifer Lee

The contest was held on December 4th, 2006. Following the prayer service in which there was the candle lighting ceremony, there was also the setting of the nativity scene. The children that were there helped with this process. After that happened the group went into the fountain area where they lit the quad and sang Christmas Carols. The party headed to warmth inside the Marian Center to the alumni Lounge. As Christmas music played in the background, the children decorated cookies, ornaments, and stockings. Mr. Santa Clause himself showed up to ask the children what they wanted for Christmas. He even handed out stuffed animals to every girl and boy. Along with all these activities, various groups throughout campus participated in a decorated Christmas tree contest. The guests were able to vote for the one they liked best. The group that won the contest would win an undisclosed amount of money. The contest had an interesting tie for first place. Campus Ministry and Student Senate tied, but Campus Ministry decided to donate the winnings to Student Senate.



holiday special

History of Lights Amazes

By: Patrick Devero

Whenever I think of Christmas, one of the first things that pops into my head is Christmas lights. The first known use of lights for Christmas occurred in 1882. Edward Johnson, a colleague of inventor Thomas Edison, electrically illuminated his Christmas tree with 80 red, white, and blue lights. Edward Johnson also created the first string of Christmas lights that were mass-produced in 1890. In 1892, the General Electric Company bought the patent for Thomas Edison's light bulb. Three years later, the White House displayed its first electrically lit Christmas tree. Christmas lights were first introduced to the outdoor scene in 1904 and 1912.

In 1927 General Electric launched a new, outdoor Christmas light. The flasher light became widely available in 1955. The year 1959

brought the aluminum Christmas tree into the population. By 1960 it was a big seller. Christmas lights were on a huge downfall because aluminum trees could not have Christmas lights on it. Instead a color wheel was put under the tree to change the color of the whole tree. Christmas lights became more popular when used in new places. Instead of the Christmas tree, you could find them on mantles and doorways inside the house. Outside you could find them on rooftops, porches, and handrails. Pre-lit artificial Christmas trees, with lights already strung on the tree, was introduced in the late 1900's. At the turn of the century, icicle lights became available. They are very popular and now sold in many different colors. Also popular today is the use of lights on building and skyscrapers. Today many cities have a Grand Illumination of their Christmas trees. So get ready for some great light shows to start your holiday season!



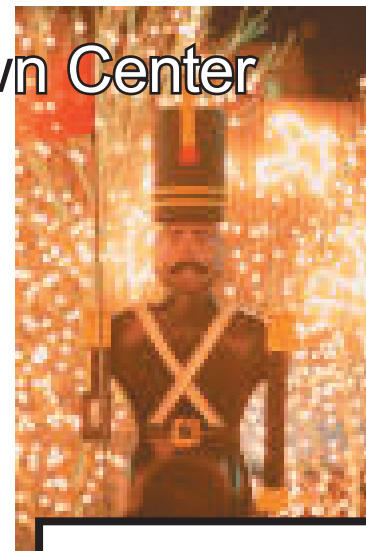
Kansas City Lights Up!

The Plaza

The Country Club Plaza is serving its 77th year as the trademark of Kansas City's Season of lights. More than 80 miles of glimmering Christmas lights are used to create this amazing display.



Crown Center



The Mayor's Christmas Tree of Kansas City is taller than the more famous trees from the White House and the Rockefeller Center.

The massive centerpiece of Crown Center is owned by Hallmark Cards. The tree lights up with 7,200 white bulbs.

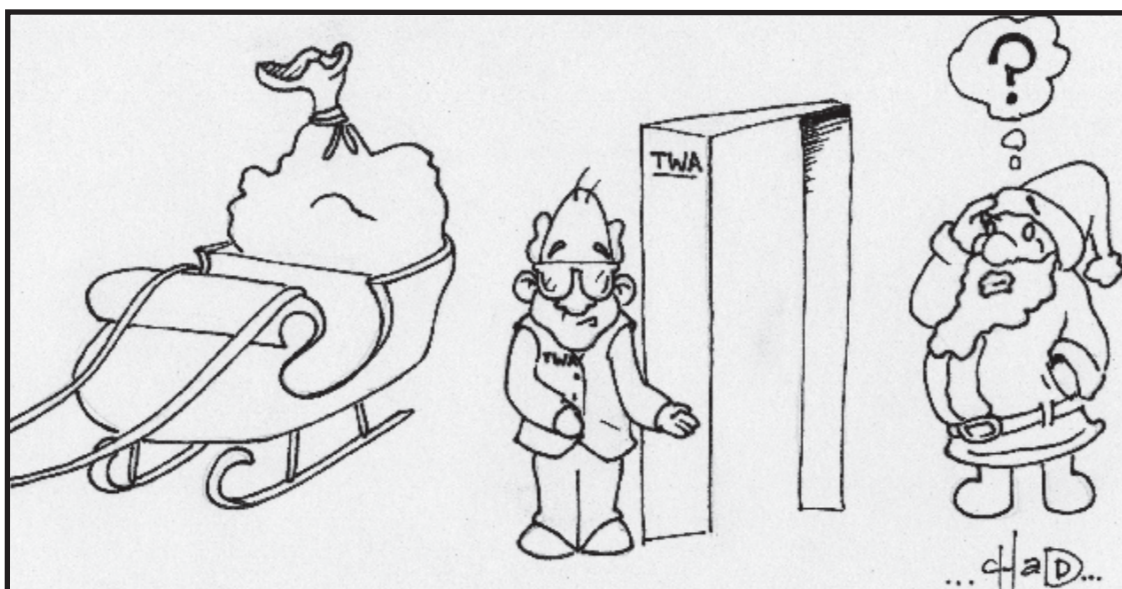
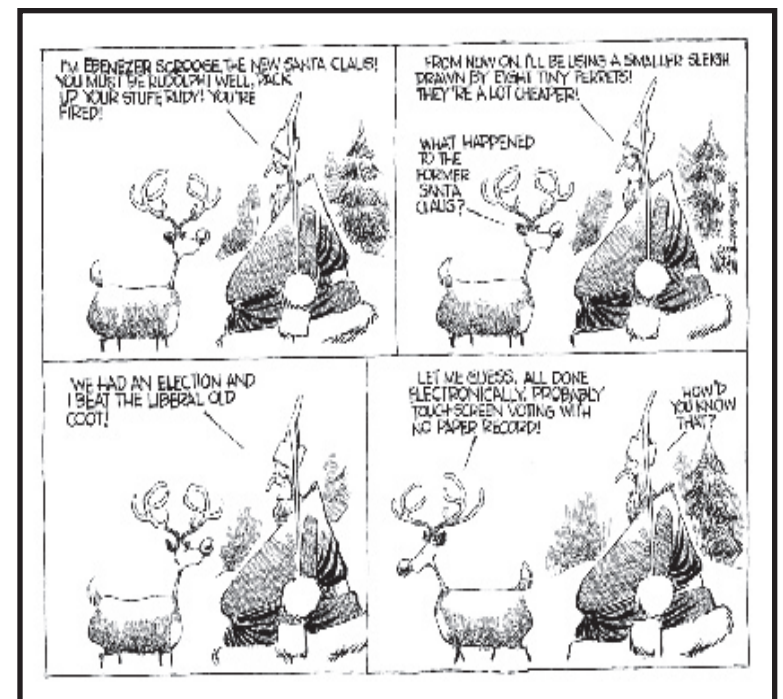
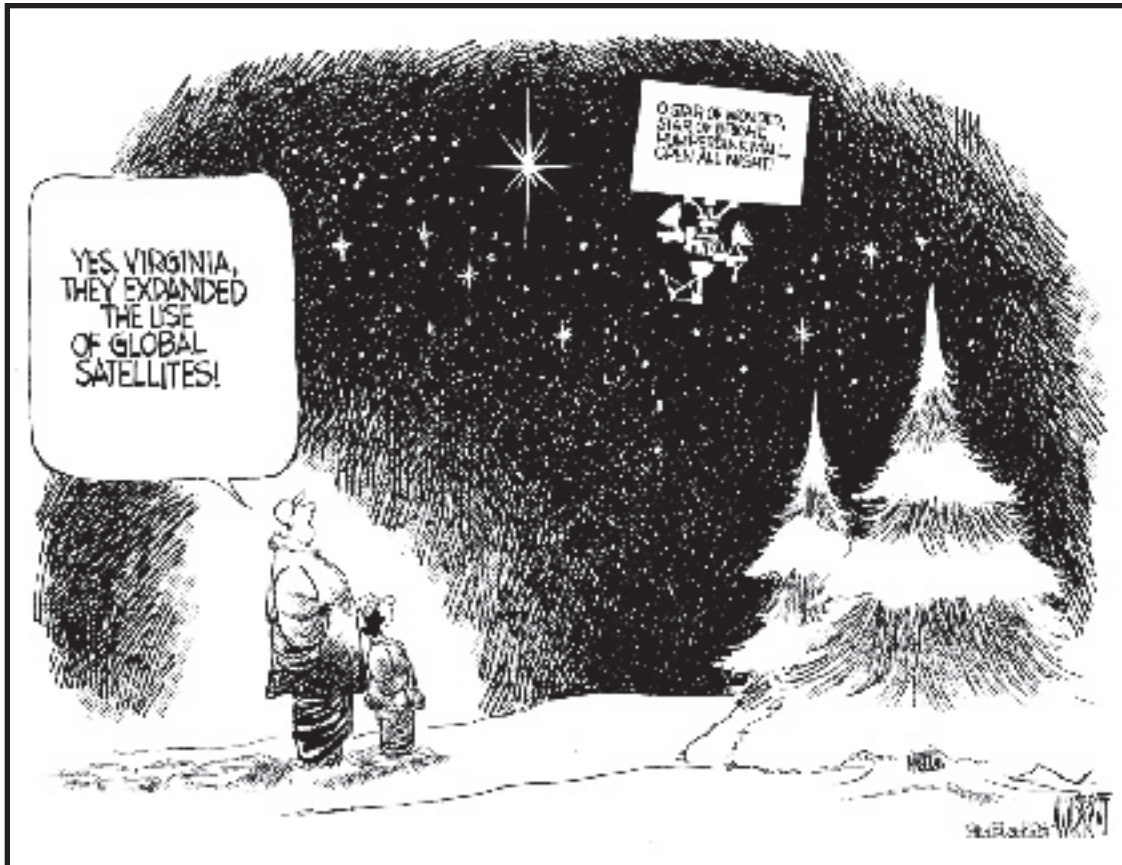


Zona Rosa

Zona Rosa, is making its second year showing with their holiday crown décor that brought back a longtime downtown Kansas City tradition of suspending large lighted crowns over the street. The crowns were a fixture of downtown Kansas City for almost 30 years. The crowns have not been downtown for 20 years ago.



holiday special



Don't Miss the Next
Talon Pod-Cast
Featuring - YOU!

Cameron's Way Continued...

scoliosis and the brace keeps it from getting worse.

Cameron's para, Ms. Washington lives about a mile away from him. She awakes everyday where she goes to Cam's house to feed him and then take him to school. One might think that since she is in every class with Cameron helping him that she too is getting a degree. That is not the case as she is just there to help Cam and nothing more. After a full day of school she then takes him home to his parents and his sister. His sister Katie, 15 also has Friedreich's ataxia. It is hereditary but only a 1 in 4 chance of passing the gene.

When Cameron gets home he lays down on the couch where he watches TV on his big screen TV. His favorite show is WWF's Raw. He plays board games but someone has to move the pieces for him. "I have to save all my calories to talk and breath," said Cam. That is why he is as thin as he is. When asked what his favorite time was he said, "when I went to Disneyworld". He said that he got on all the rides and his favorite ride was the Tower of Terror.



Chass Cox (Father) and Cameron

Cameron's dad is an alumnus of Avila and his grandpa is good friends with the dean. Being the smart student that he is, Cam is on Academic scholarship and has been on the Dean's List since he got here. Cam is a normal 20-year-old despite the disease he has and he wants all of us at Avila "not to be scared of saying hi".

feature

Typical Daily Schedule

7:00am – Wake & Shower

8:00 am - Daily News
update with Dad

8:40 am – Head to School

9:00 am – first Class

10:30am – reading with
Berta in lounge

12:00nn – Power Nap

12:30pm – lunch with
Dad & Berta

1:00 pm – study or sleep

2:00pm – back to classes

3:30pm – heading for home

4:00pm – study time

6:00pm – back to campus
for Macro-Economics

8:45 - relax

Women Moving Avila Forward

by: Jureau Bowman

In the 1800's women were not allowed to do anything other than take care of the household. In the 1900's women became a little more liberal in working and taking care of the household. In the new millennium women are taking over. In this last election there were numerous women who took charge especially on the political front. All over the world women are becoming executives and presidents of companies. They have become the breadwinners and the husbands stay home with the kids.

Avila University is filled with women in power. This article is the first in a feature series that examines "Women in Charge" at Avila University. The first woman featured in this series is Susan Fetsch.

Fetsch a mother of twin's girls who are in college was very confident that her family was receiving a stable home. She has a loving husband who is her best friend to help share in the responsibilities. When speaking with Susan this is what she had to say about her career.

"A stable, nurturing home and family environment has always been a priority for me. My mother occasionally worked as a substitute teacher but was generally a stay at home mother. However, her volunteer activities often required as much attention as might a part—and at times even a full-time job. When both parents work outside the home, I believe the balance is most easily found when a strong parenting partnership exists. I have worked full-time since my twin daughters were five. I was in a PhD program when they were born and my husband has always shared responsibility for the children and home. He is my best friend—willing to listen to frustrations and successes, offer suggestions, or just give me a hug when I need one. His job is more "contained" within a regular workweek than is mine so he was able to share in the responsibilities of driving the girls to activities and running errands. I think the time that was the hardest to juggle was middle school and needing rides to many different activities and lessons.

When I am stressed, he will assume a little more responsibility. When he is stressed (or when he was in Avila's MBA program), I assume more responsibility. We make it work pretty easily, in most situations, with planning and good communication about needs—needs that are both tangible and emotional for all members of the family. We relied mainly on ourselves for resolution of problems but my parents and sometimes a sister were available when we were in a bind. At our busiest times, we were fortunate to hire out house cleaning and a food delivery service.

We are extremely tight-knit. In fact, nearly all of our non-work time was spent as family while the girls were growing up. My husband and I wanted children and have thoroughly enjoyed raising them. We had two older women (who are sisters) share watching them part-time in the home when I was working on my PhD. Those women provided a lot of love and care for them and would often start meals for us or bake a pie! That was a great treat! However, both my girls say they would have preferred not to have experienced day care. Most of the day care they were in was after school day care in elementary school. We were fortunate that we could afford to have our children in clean, safe and nurturing environments.

Since both my husband and I work about 30 minutes away from home, the girls learned to organize themselves and bring what they needed to school. I can only remember one or two times I got a call that they had forgotten something. Being organized and ready for activities is a good skill for children to learn. In fact, I believe my organizational talents at home and work promotes time efficiency and facilitates being able to work full-time and have a stable home life.

I think my career has been great role modeling for my girls. They are both very academic but balance their lives with things they love to do socially. I believe I am a happier person because I am able to use my talents and gifts through a career. Had I not used the God-given talents I have in both a home and work environment, I would feel as though I were not fulfilling my life's purpose. I think that feeling of contentment is conveyed at home.

In addition, I think the girls have a closer relationship with their

father than do many children. When I needed time to study for my PhD work, my husband would take the girls to a Chinese restaurant on Saturdays for lunch and "tea parties". Today they share common interests, particularly music, with him and confide in him in a similar manner to the way they do with me.

If there is any "unhealthy" side of it, it is probably the limited social engagement my husband and I had outside of work and family. Now that we are empty nesters with both girls in college, we are more conscious of needing to renew that aspect of our lives. We enjoy doing more things with friends who also have more time for an adult focused social life now that their children are older. Because we hired some outside help, the girls are not very skilled in house management—I figure that will come out of necessity when they have their own homes!

We are also a "food-focused" family and the norm has always been to eat our evening meals together at home. To help me get out the door in the morning, my husband would eat breakfast with the girls and often packed lunches for us. I cannot remember any school or other important activity that my husband, I or both of us were not in attendance. Because it was important to us—and we thought parenting was fun—we found ways to make it work!"

Stop and think- are you really spending your time on things that truly matter?

Success is a magnifying glass on your personality. Who you are just becomes more intense. The real beauty of having material wealth is that you don't have to worry about paying the bills and you have more energy to be concerned about the

things that matter. How do I accelerate my humanity? How do I use who I am on earth for a purpose that's bigger than myself? How do I align the energy of my soul with my personality and use my personality to serve my soul? My answer always comes back to self. There is no moving up and out into the world unless you are fully acquainted with who you are. You cannot move freely, speak freely, act freely, be free unless you are comfortable with yourself.

As we can see there are tons of women in this century who have exceed a 'man's world' and created a 'woman's world,' to make it better for young women to come. . These women are role models and they are stating standards for women all over the world. Let's enjoy this woman and applaud her for the efforts that she made and have achieved. Remember women we all can do it.



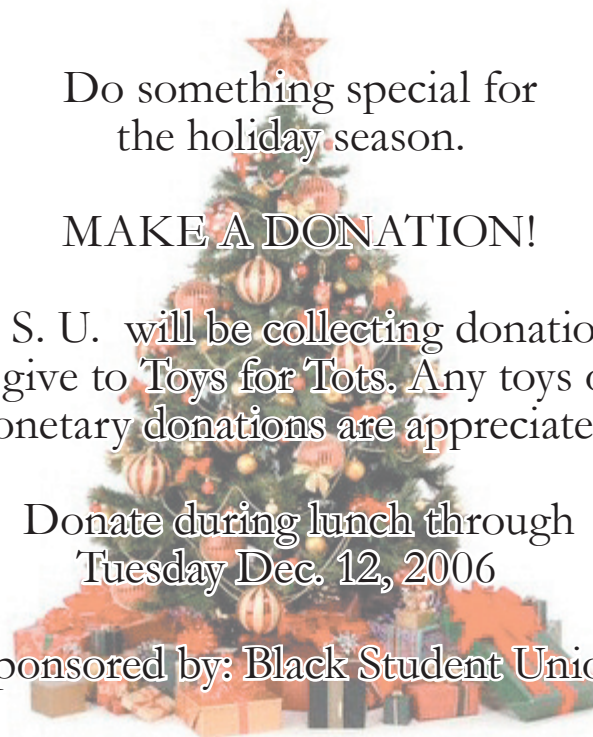
Do something special for
the holiday season.

MAKE A DONATION!

B. S. U. will be collecting donations
to give to Toys for Tots. Any toys or
monetary donations are appreciated.

Donate during lunch through
Tuesday Dec. 12, 2006

Sponsored by: Black Student Union



College football awards

Origins of Division I-A honors

Heisman Memorial Trophy
Considered the most prestigious award
Began 1935



Maxwell Award
Coaches, sportscasters, writers' best player
Began 1937

Outland Trophy
For best interior lineman
Began 1946

Walter Camp Award
Coaches, sports info directors' best player
Began 1967

Vince Lombardi Award
For best lineman or linebacker
Began 1970

Davey O'Brien Award
For best quarterback
Began 1981

Dick Butkus Award
For best linebacker
Began 1985

Jim Thorpe Award
For best defensive back
Began 1986

Johnny Unitas Award
For best senior quarterback
Began 1987

Doak Walker Award
For best running back in good academic standing
Began 1989

Lou Groza Award
For best placekicker
Began 1992

Chuck Bednarik Award
For best defensive player
Began 1993

Bronko Nagurski Award
For best defensive player
Began 1993

Fred Biletnikoff Award
For best wide receiver
Began 1994

Ray Guy Award
For best punter
Began 2000

John Mackey Award
For best tight end
Began 2000

Dave Rimington Award
For best center
Began 2000

Ted Hendricks Award
For best defensive end
Began 2002

Manning Award
For best quarterback, post bowl play
Began 2004

Sources: Football.com, MCT Photo Service

Graphic: Andrew Smith

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Heisman Memorial Trophy Outstanding Player

2006	Troy Smith, OSU
2005	Reggie Bush, USC
2004	Matt Leinart, USC
2003	Jason White, Oklahoma
2002	Carson Palmer, USC
2001	Eric Crouch, Nebraska
2000	Chris Weinke, Florida St
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida

Maxwell Award Outstanding Player

2006	Brady Quinn, N Dame
2005	Vince Young, Texas
2004	Jason White, Oklahoma

Walter Camp Award Player of the Year Award

2006	Troy Smith, Ohio St
2005	Reggie Bush, USC
2004	Matt Leinart, USC

Dick Butkus Award Outstanding Linebacker

2006	Patrick Willis, Ole Miss
2005	Paul Posluszny, Penn State
2004	Derrick Johnson, Texas

Outland Trophy Outstanding Interior Lineman

2006	Joe Thomas, Wisconsin
2005	Greg Eslinger, Minnesota
2004	Jammal Brown, Oklahoma

Chuck Bednarik Award Defensive Player of the Year

2006	Paul Posluszny, Penn State
2005	Paul Posluszny, Penn State
2004	David Pollack, Georgia

Davey O'Brien Award National Quarterback Award

2006	Troy Smith, Ohio St
2005	Vince Young, Texas
2004	Jason White, Oklahoma

Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Outstanding Sr. QB

2005	Matt Leinart, USC
2004	Jason White, Oklahoma
2003	Eli Manning, Ole Miss

Doak Walker Award National Runningback Award

2006	Darren McFadden, Arkansas
2005	Reggie Bush, USC
2004	Cedric Benson, Texas

Fred Biletnikoff Award Outstanding Wide Receiver

2006	Calvin Johnson, Ga Tech
2005	Mike Hass, Oregon St
2004	Braylon Edwards, Michigan

sports

Jim Thorpe Award Outstanding Defensive Back

2006	Aaron Ross, Texas
2005	Michael Huff, Texas
2004	Carlos Rogers, Auburn

John Mackey Award Outstanding Tight End

2006	Matt Spaeth, Minnesota
2005	Mercedes Lewis, UCLA
2004	Heath Miller, Virginia

Lou Groza Award Collegiate Placekicker Award

2006	Art Carmody, Louisville
2005	Alexis Serna, Oregon St
2004	Mike Nugent, Ohio St

Bronko Nagurski Award Defensive Player of the Year

2006	James Laurinaitis, Ohio St
2005	Elvis Dumervil, Louisville
2004	Derrick Johnson, Texas

Ray Guy Award Outstanding Punter

2006	Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor
2005	Ryan Plackemeier, Wake
2004	Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor

Vince Lombardi/Rotary Award Outstanding Lineman

2006	LaMarr Woodley, Michigan
2005	A.J. Hawk, Ohio St
2004	David Pollack, Georgia

Ted Hendricks Award Defensive End of the Year Award

2005	Elvis Dumervil, Louisville
2004	David Pollack, Georgia
2003	David Pollack, Georgia

Rimington Trophy Outstanding Center

2006	Dan Mozes, W Virginia
2005	Greg Eslinger, Minnesota
2004	Ben Wilkerson, LSU

Eastern

NBA

By: John De Roo

The NBA season is underway with all 30 teams vying for the NBA championship that will be crowned in June. The Miami Heat are the reigning champions and they look to repeat with stars Dwyane Wade at guard and center Shaquille O'Neal.

In the Eastern Conference, the Chicago Bulls look to be on the rise with the acquisition of center Ben Wallace from the Detroit Pistons and they look for more solid production from former Kansas Jayhawk guard Kirk Hinrich.

The Western Conference also has some good teams in it with the San Antonio Spurs and the Phoenix Suns. In San Antonio, the Spurs look to stars forward Tim Duncan and guard Mani Ginobili to lead them back in the hunt for the NBA title. The Phoenix Suns will welcome back star center Amare Stoudemire for a full season and they also hope guard Steve Nash will continue to be a scoring force for them. The Los Angeles Lakers will also stay in the race with guard Kobe Bryant.

All in all this should be a fun NBA season with several teams having a chance to hold the championship trophy at center court in June.

Western



Gators win PR battle, now await Buckeyes on field

By Dave Curtis
The Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Despite insisting that they would not and do not campaign for votes in Bowl Championship Series-related polls, officials from Florida and Michigan each took steps last week to, well, campaign for votes.

After beating Arkansas for the Southeastern Conference Championship, the Gators gained 66 points in the USA Today Coaches Poll and 124 points in the Harris Interactive Poll to surge past the Wolverines and secure the BCS's No. 2 slot and a place in the national title game.

But Florida officials, including Coach Urban Meyer, also spent more time than Michigan representatives promoting their teams' cause, especially at the expense of other top teams.

"The whole thing is a perception-based business," Florida sports information director Steve McClain said, "when you have people voting on things they're not able to see."

For those voters who didn't see Florida this year, school officials provide dozens of reasons through the media why they should rank the Gators behind only the Buckeyes.

Thursday, before Southern California was upset by UCLA, Florida's sports information department distributed an e-mail comparing its team's schedule and victories to USC's. It also compared Florida, Michigan, USC and Notre Dame in nine offensive categories: the Gators ranked first or second in all nine.

"That's not all that different than what we usually do," McClain said.

Then, after UF's conference-title win, McClain learned of statistics that showed his team's offense, knocked by pundits all season, was superior to Michigan's.

So he relayed the information to a colleague in the press box, and less than an hour after the game ended, media members were greeted by a hand-written five-line chart indicating that Florida's perceived stronger schedule featured an 0.2-point larger margin of victory than

that of the Wolverines.

Michigan, meanwhile, had started to go public with its case for No. 2 as well. As Florida beat Arkansas, Michigan officials phoned ESPN and arranged for Coach Lloyd Carr to appear during SportsCenter's opening segment that evening and field questions about his Wolverines' chances.

"We initiated that," Michigan associate athletic director for media relations Bruce Madej said. "We were trying to bring a satellite truck in but couldn't get one, so we did it by phone."

Carr's live comments were tame Saturday night compared to Meyer's assertions at a Georgia Dome news conference that evening. His words capped a consistent two-week call that the BCS should not stage an Ohio State-Michigan rematch, and that the SEC champion deserved a spot in the national title game.

"Florida belongs," Meyer said. "The other team had a shot. We went 12-1 and I think the country wants to see the Southeastern Conference champion against a Big Ten champion."

Those comments bothered Carr, who deemed them in appropriate and blasted Meyer during his Sunday morning television show.

On bowl teleconferences Sunday night, Meyer declined to fire back, and Carr declined to elaborate.

Whether they read articles or heard broadcasts with the information the schools tried to provide, voters cast ballots Sunday morning. Florida, of course, won that contest.

Michigan only hopes an earlier contest, that had nothing to do with football, didn't seal its fate.

"I hope not," Madej said. "Hopefully, the actions on the field speak for themselves."

Personal Trainer © 2006 MCT

Gentle to Intense walking

Some people walk regularly to lose weight, and some walk faster, to train for a sport; how to judge the intensity of your walking.

Level 1	Sitting and doing paperwork	No exercise benefit
Level 2	Doing light housework	
Level 3	Walking slowly but steadily	Warm-up exercise
Level 4	Walking steadily; breathing increases	
Level 5	Walking briskly; body warms	Recovery walking, for cooling off
Level 6	Light perspiration; can talk easily	Cardio walking, maintain for short or longer time
Level 7	Can talk, but unable to recite a poem easily	
Level 8	Breathing deeply	Intense walking; use only for advanced workout and training
Level 9	Breathing hard; no pain	
Level 10	Walking at top speed; hard to maintain	Too intense for beneficial training

Source: "Walk Your Way Challenge," Prevention magazine. Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Personal Trainer © 2006 MCT

First steps on ice skates

Most beginners just put on ice skates, go on the ice and do the best they can; these are some basic skills to work on first:

How to slow down

The easiest way is like the "snowplow" that skiers use to slow down. Hold ankles rigid and point toes slightly inward. Practice stopping in a straight line.

How to do a 'dip'

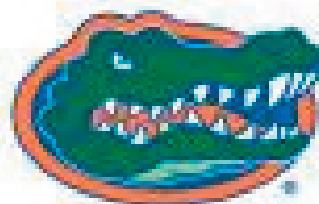
This important maneuver is difficult to do at first, but gets easier as your balance improves. Glide forward with feet side-by-side and bend your knees. Keep buttocks parallel to the ice. As you improve, dip deeply into a squat with arms around knees.

How to do a 'planned fall'

- 1 Skate forward
- 2 Go into a dip
- 3 Fall sideways onto ice

Source: "Your Guide to Figure Skating" by Jo Ann Schneider Farris. Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

BCS National Championship Game



Date:
January 8, 2007

Site:
University of Phoenix Stadium (73,000)

Kick-Off:
6:30 p.m. MST (8:30 p.m. EST)

Television:
Fox (Thom Brennenman, Barry Alvarez, Charles Davis and Chris Myers)

Views from the Huddle

By Landon Ellis
Football Overview 2006

While Avila's 2006 football season didn't go as planned in talking to some of the players, they couldn't have hoped for a better season. Through most of the interviews there was a general feeling that while there were mistakes made both on and off the field it was generally a good year.

Talking to freshmen John Solomon he stated that "the team had way more than enough talent to win more games and make it to the playoffs," and it was quite possible for this team to win the NAIA championship. Solomon also stated that if the majority of the players that were ineligible had played, the season would have gone completely different. He also stated that next year there will be play off bids. Solomon felt one of the biggest areas for this team's improvement would be in the area of confidence. He said, "Avila football needs to not worry about its critics." He said that the critics should bring the team closer together.

Talking to another player of the 2006 season Senior First Team all Conference Corner back Mike Pearl was very happy to finish up his senior season playing for Avila and playing with his "hommies" has he stated. Pearl also stated that he couldn't have been happier playing football wearing purple and white to finish off his football career. What Pearl said about the 2007 Avila Eagles is that they will be so much better and remember not to let the critics bring the team down and just play hard. Mike Pearl wished all good things on the 2007 football season, and said he will be watching from the stands.



Prime Time Shots from the
EAGLES!

DON'T
FORGET
FLU
SHOTS !!

Women's Basketball Schedule

1/4/2007	Thursday	Graceland University	7:00 p.m.
1/8/2007	Monday	Mid-America Nazarene University	5:30 p.m.
1/11/2007	Thursday	Central Methodist University	5:30 p.m.
1/13/2007	Saturday	Calver-Stoddard College	4:00 p.m.
1/15/2007	Monday	Park University	7:00 p.m.
1/18/2007	Thursday	Benedictine College	5:30 p.m.
1/20/2007	Saturday	Baker University	2:00 p.m.
1/25/2007	Thursday	Evangel University	5:30 p.m.
1/27/2007	Saturday	Lindenwood University	2:00 p.m.
2/1/2007	Thursday	William Jewell College	5:30 p.m.
2/3/2007	Saturday	Missouri Valley College	2:00 p.m.
2/5/2007	Monday	Park University	1BA
2/10/2007	Thursday	Graceland University	5:00 p.m.
2/10/2007	Saturday	Stephens College	7:00 p.m.
2/12/2007	Monday	Mid-America Nazarene University	5:30 p.m.
2/15/2007	Thursday	Central Methodist University	5:30 p.m.
2/17/2007	Saturday	Calver-Stoddard College	2:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball Schedule

12/15/2006	Friday	Ottawa University	5:00 p.m.
1/2/2007	Tuesday	University of Saint Mary	7:00 p.m.
1/4/2007	Thursday	Graceland University	7:30 p.m.
1/6/2007	Saturday	Haskett Indian Nazarene University	7:30 p.m.
1/8/2007	Monday	Mid-America Nazarene University	7:30 p.m.
1/13/2007	Thursday	Central Methodist University	7:30 p.m.
1/13/2007	Saturday	Calver-Stoddard College	4:00 p.m.
1/18/2007	Thursday	Benedictine College	7:30 p.m.
1/20/2007	Saturday	Baker University	4:00 p.m.
1/23/2007	Tuesday	Penn State University	7:30 p.m.
1/25/2007	Thursday	Evangel University	5:30 p.m.
1/27/2007	Saturday	Lindenwood University	4:00 p.m.
2/1/2007	Thursday	William Jewell College	7:30 p.m.
2/3/2007	Saturday	Missouri Valley College	4:00 p.m.
2/10/2007	Thursday	Graceland University	7:30 p.m.
2/12/2007	Monday	Mid-America Nazarene University	7:30 p.m.
2/15/2007	Thursday	Central Methodist University	7:30 p.m.
2/17/2007	Saturday	Calver-Stoddard College	4:00 p.m.



commentary

Sex Offenders On Rise

Stephen Sharkey

There are several stereotypes about sex offenders, and Stephen Sharkey's article, *Cracking down on sex offenders* which appeared in the latest issue of *The Talon*, is perfect example of their perpetuation. First, there is no one type of sex offender. There are male and female offenders, young and old, they are from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and they are not found only in the United States. There is even an International Association of the Treatment of Sex Offenders (IATSO) which brings the latest research from around the world into the hands of those trying to find solutions to difficult questions. Second, there are different quantifying factors in the assessment and treatment of sex offenders. This means there are different levels of offense, involvement with children, and risk of reoffending. Relapse rates are variable. Outcomes are variable. These are not hopeless cases, nor should they be treated as terminal. The example of peeing in public is a good place to start. There are some who urinate in public for sexual gratification; it is called exposure or exhibitionism. There are others who get drunk and do something immature. (Either way, I do not want my child viewing this behavior!) Yet, they are classified by the general public quite the same when they appear on the national registry list. One offender needs a

series of assessments and treatment, whereas, the other may just need to be confronted. One will do it again, the other may not. Of course, this is a much simpler example than the complexities of sexual contact with children. I suppose I am one of those people who stand up and fight for sex offenders. The fear is there, the wanting to react is there, and the anger is there. But I approach this as an opportunity to learn about a behavior, find a treatment, and truly understand where this may come from. I look at Mark Karr and wonder- wonder what disease, if any, he may have. I don't want anyone being kidnapped, touched, or harmed in any way- no matter what their age. I am passionate about that! Punitive avenues have continued to fail in rehabilitating persons who harm others. When judges begin working with professionals outside the judicial system, the general public sees this as an outrage; mostly because they don't have adequate information. The best place for sex offenders may not be prison. It may not be within society. That is yet to be determined on an individual basis. Lauding a bullet to one's head is understandable- as a passionate statement. However, it does nothing for addressing a long-term solution. Nor does it represent a responsible gun owners position. Although frustrated, vigilantism is a long way from justice. I would caution this type of approach. Use your passion in a positive direction. As a graduate student, I certainly hope to do the same. For more information, please visit the IATSO website at <http://www.iatso.org/>

Skin Deep

By: Kayle Walker

Were you ever afraid to wear red in fear of being mistaken for the Kool-Aid Man? Yep, that was me. A chunky, awkward adolescent. I like to joke about it now, but I can recall every second of the torment I faced that day and it's a memory that will be with me forever.



I was only twelve years old and that day I was playing basketball at our local community center. We went to pick teams and I happened to be wearing a red t-shirt. An older boy named Justin said, "No one is gonna pick you. The Kool-Aid Man can't play basketball!" All the other kids laughed and began to tease me about my weight.

As I made the transition from middle school to high school, I grew into my body and boys began to notice me. No, scratch that--people began to notice me. My circle of friends grew and opportunities from teachers, coaches and other adults expanded. It was pathetic really, but I still embraced the transformation. It's hard to say that looks don't make

a person but we all pass judgments and appearance is a major key in each of our individual lives. Don't believe me, ask anyone who has had a drastic change in appearance how it has affected them.

Not only did I have to go through an agonizing fat stage but I also had the joy of having "hillbilly" status. Unfortunately for me, I knocked a tooth out playing basketball my junior year of high school. It wasn't only a tooth, but my front tooth! Since then I've had it replaced, but the process was painful. I had to go through numerous surgeries and after each one I had to go toothless for two weeks. An entire month without a front tooth. I couldn't go to work, I couldn't go out with friends, and if I did, you wouldn't believe the looks I got.

I was teased endlessly by friends and family. In high school my friends would always say "I didn't know we has a hockey team!" implying that I was a busted up hockey player.

Between surgeries I had a fake tooth that I could take in and out

and when I came to Avila and it was a big joke to do my "trick," which meant pop my tooth out. My friends were always teasing me to do it to waiters at restaurants or when I met someone for the first time. It was funny, but talk about complete embarrassment.

People would always tell my parents, "Only Kayle could run around without a tooth. She's so self-assured!" Little did they know, my confidence was fading and the teasing was getting really old.

My mom once told me "Everyone has an ugly stage, luckily you've already went through yours." But in reality, even though I survived both my "ugly stages," all that time it was still me. I may have been treated different, but I was still that person I am today.

I wish we weren't so easy to judge a book by its cover, but it happens each and everyday. We all have our flaws and we all have our assets. My advice to you, forget about the flaws, highlight your assets; to someone you're beautiful and that someone should start with you.



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Thank You.

Beer pong: Students love the challenge, colleges fear binge drinking

By Megan Twohey
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
(MCT)

The pingpong table stood mightily on the front lawn of a fraternity house near the University of Wisconsin-Madison, one side painted with the red and white stripes of the American flag, the other with the Soviet Union hammer and sickle.

Ten plastic cups filled with beer were perched on each end. Hunched over the cups were pairs of students, brows furrowed, eyes aglow.



The most popular drinking game on campus was getting under way. The crowd of spectators grew silent.

"I'm going to make it," proclaimed one of the players, in a Bucky T-shirt and wraparound sunglasses, as she thrust one arm forward, unleashing a pingpong ball from her hand.

Beer pong in which players make their opponents drink by sinking a pingpong ball in one of their cups has been around for more than a decade. But in the last couple of years, it has reached unprecedented popularity to the chagrin of college administrators who fear the game fuels binge drinking.

Students say that it's rare to attend a party where the game is not being played. Stroll the neighborhoods around UW-Madison, and you'll find lawns and driveways strewn with beer pong tables. There's a distinct beer pong culture, complete with tournaments,

posters and custom-made tables.

"It has exploded," said Nick, a UW-Madison junior, as he stood over a table that had taken him weeks to make, a pingpong ball in one hand, a beer in the other. (Like other underage drinkers quoted in this story, he asked that his last name be withheld.) "We play from dusk to dawn."

Drinking games are not new to college campuses.

For years, students have taken part in quarters, a game in which a player can make others drink by bouncing a quarter into a cup, and a card game with a distinct hierarchy, in which the person at the bottom, known as an expletive, can be ordered to drink.

Once popular was a game in which students would watch reruns of "The Bob Newhart Show." Every time a character would say "Hi, Bob," everyone would have to drink.

Also common have been a variety of games requiring players to consume alcohol out of the long, gangly tubes of beer bongs.

What distinguishes beer pong from these drinking game staples is how competitive it is. It's not just a vehicle for getting drunk; it requires skill.

Or so beer pong enthusiasts would have you believe.

"It's like a sport that involves alcohol," said Patrick, a junior at UW-Milwaukee, who said he had worked hard to perfect the arc of his pingpong tosses and his bounce shot.

Patrick, who began dabbling in the game last year, is now a self-proclaimed addict.

He and his four roommates engage in weekly beer pong tournaments against their next-door neighbors. The winner gets a plastic gold belt like those found in World Wrestling Entertainment matches that says "World Champion."

Mike, a junior at UW-Madison who also enjoys beer pong tournaments with friends, has a poster tacked up above his dining room table in honor of the game.

The poster, a birthday gift from his sister, shows a sideways shot of 10 plastic cups with the caption: "Champions are made one cup at a time."

In January, a World Series of Beer Pong took place in Nevada — the first world series of its kind.

"Guys are so competitive, so they can't help but get sucked into the competition," said Alex, a Marquette freshman.

When they don't have pingpong tables, players will make their own, often taking the time to apply lacquer (to avoid warping) or paint images. A Marquette student painted his table to look like the university's basketball court. The fraternity that painted the flags of the U.S. and former Soviet Union on its pingpong table owns several other tables, each painted with different national flags.

Others remove doors from their hinges. "It's a big problem," said Mike, the UW-Madison junior, who works maintenance in his apartment building to help pay the bills. "They have a hard time putting the doors back on. They're really sticky from beer."

Researchers who study drinking games say they can cause serious problems, contributing to binge drinking and the negative consequences, such as drunken driving, that go along with it. One study of college students found that nearly half the male respondents who played drinking games said they did so to facilitate romantic interactions and sexual encounters.

"Drinking games are a structured way to drink heavily," said Brian Borsari, a researcher at Brown University who has studied drinking games and who wrote a paper summarizing studies on the subject. "One motivation is to get people drunk. There is a link between alcohol use and sexual assault."

A national association of fraternities and sororities recently strengthened its risk management policy prohibiting drinking games, citing beer pong as a specific activity that should not be tolerated. Many colleges now include warnings as part of their freshmen orientations.

"We're trying to emphasize, especially to freshmen, the dangers of drinking games," said Paul Dupont, a psychologist at UW-Milwaukee's student health center, who leads the university's Task Force on Alcohol and Alcohol-Related Issues.



Beer pong advocates interviewed for this story conceded that while it is often not the intention, the game can cause them to get severely intoxicated. Not only must they drink the beer contained in a cup in which the ball lands, losers also are required to, at the end of the game, finish the beer remaining in the cups of the winners.

"Once you drink all that beer, you pretty much are hammered," said Patrick, the UW-Milwaukee junior.

campus life

Praying for an 'A' might not impress your prof

By Jeffrey Weiss
The Dallas Morning News
(MCT)

DALLAS — College professors aren't all godless heathens, but they are more secular than the general population, according to a new study. And the more elite the institution, the more secular the professors are likely to be.

The study was done by two sociologists, Neil Gross of Harvard University and Solon Simmons of George Mason University. They contacted 1,471 professors at religious and secular colleges and asked about politics and faith.

The purpose of their report, released on the Internet, was to assess the observation by many religious conservatives that America's universities are "a haven largely freed from religious perspectives."

Among the notable results:

Almost a third answered "none" when asked their religion — more than twice the percentage found in the general population.

Science professors were the least religious. Accounting professors were the most religious.

More than half the professors at places other than so-called "elite" universities said they absolutely believed in God. About a third of the professors at elite schools took that position. (The study used the U.S. News and World Report rankings to define elite institutions.)

About 30 percent of community college professors considered intelligent design as a serious scientific alternative. Fewer than 6 percent of professors at elite universities took that position.

In a much larger survey, released by the University of California, Los Angeles, earlier this year, more than 80 percent of professors said they were "spiritual."

The studies indicate that spirituality affects how professors teach and interact with the world, said Jennifer A. Lindholm, the UCLA project director.

Her study concluded that the more spiritual professors were more likely to use cooperative learning techniques in the classroom; to use their scholarship to address community needs; and to encourage students to perform community service.

HOMEAGAIN: Welcome home ... is it time for a curfew?

By Cassandra Spratling
Detroit Free Press
(MCT)

DETROIT — While home during a break from North Carolina A&T, where she's a sophomore, Rickelle Winton casually mentioned to her mom that she was having a friend over.

They planned to watch TV in Rickelle's bedroom. "No way," said her mom. Rickelle's friend is a guy. "I told her I didn't think that was fair because I have boys in my room in my dorm," says Rickelle, who attends the college in Greensboro, N.C.

Dorm's one thing; home's another, her mother, Doreen Odom of Detroit, told her.

Parents and their children home for the holidays are bound to have similar discussions as college students accustomed to living by their own rules return home to live by their parents' rules over the winter break.

"At school, you could come home at 4 o'clock in the morning and she'd have no idea," says Rachel Kay, 19, a University of Michigan sophomore, referring to her mother, Janice Kay, 50, of West Bloomfield, Mich. "It is a frustrating thing when you're used to being on your own, but it's understandable because she's my mom and she worries."

The holiday season will be a happier time for parents and students if they talk about and agree on rules, curfews and plans for the holidays. And the sooner the better.

Curfews are the top concern, say parents, students and college officials.

"When I was in high school my curfew was 1 a.m.," says Rachel. "When I come home from college, she extended it to 2 a.m."

Janice Kay says she understands the frustration, but she needs the peace of mind. "We talked about it and I told her that when she stays with me, she needs to let me know where she is and when she'll be home. If she's not going to make it home by that time, she just needs to call and let me know," says Kay, a speech-language pathologist with the Detroit Public Schools. "I went away to school too, so I understand what it's like to be away at school and have freedom and come home and have rules."

Doreen Odom, who is in her 40s and an administrator at a community health center, doesn't set a curfew, preferring to let the occasion dictate the time Rickelle should be home. But she says she does expect Rickelle to tell her where she's going, with whom and what time she'll be home -- something Rickelle forgot when she first returned home last year.

When I asked her what time she'd be home, she said, 'Why? Why do you need to know?' And then she told me, 'Nobody tells me what time to come in when I'm at school. I make my own rules. I'm an adult.'

"I said, 'Yes, you may be an adult by age. But as long as I'm paying the bills, you're half an adult.'" Rickelle laughs recalling the conversation. "I guess my excuse wasn't cutting it," says Rickelle, who's majoring in chemical engineering.

Brittany Mae Zito, 20, a Michigan State University junior, says students will have a better time at home if they try to look at the situation from their parents' point of view.

"It's really not that big a problem," says Zito, a pre-med major from Clinton Township, Mich., who lives in her own apartment. "They usually want me home by 2, but if I call they're OK."

Curfew is not the only concern, says Cindy Hellman, assistant director of residence life at Michigan State University.

Hellman says when students return to school, she and other staff often hear complaints about living at home again.

"It's everything from how late they can stay out to how late they can sleep in in the mornings," Hellman says.

The other area of disagreement centers on how the student spends his or her time.

"The family expects they'll be home every night for dinner and watching TV with their little brother after dinner and the student wants to go out and socialize with friends," she says.

Hellman says students and parents sometimes discover after time apart that they think differently now.

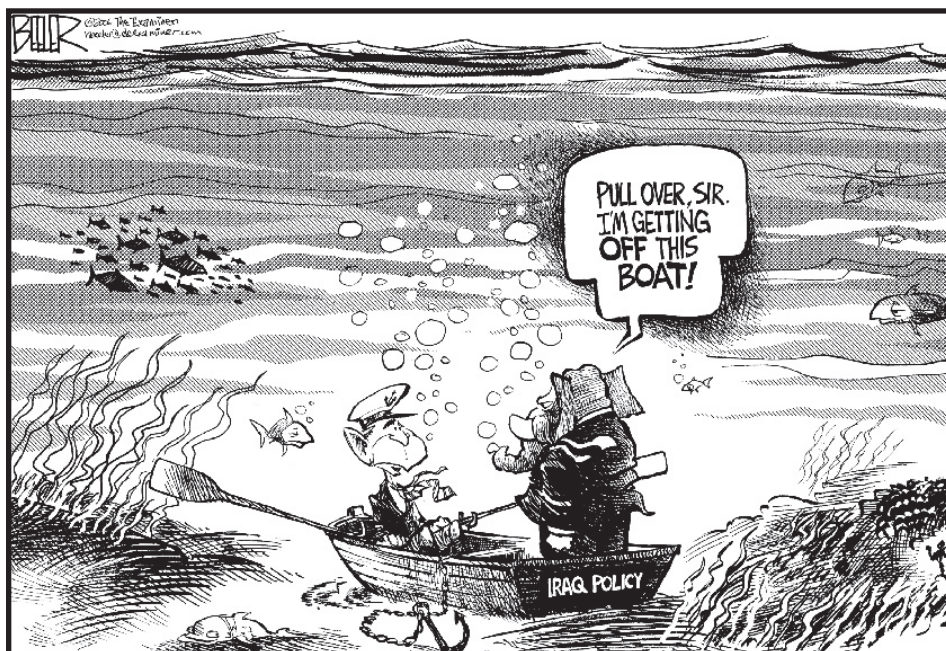
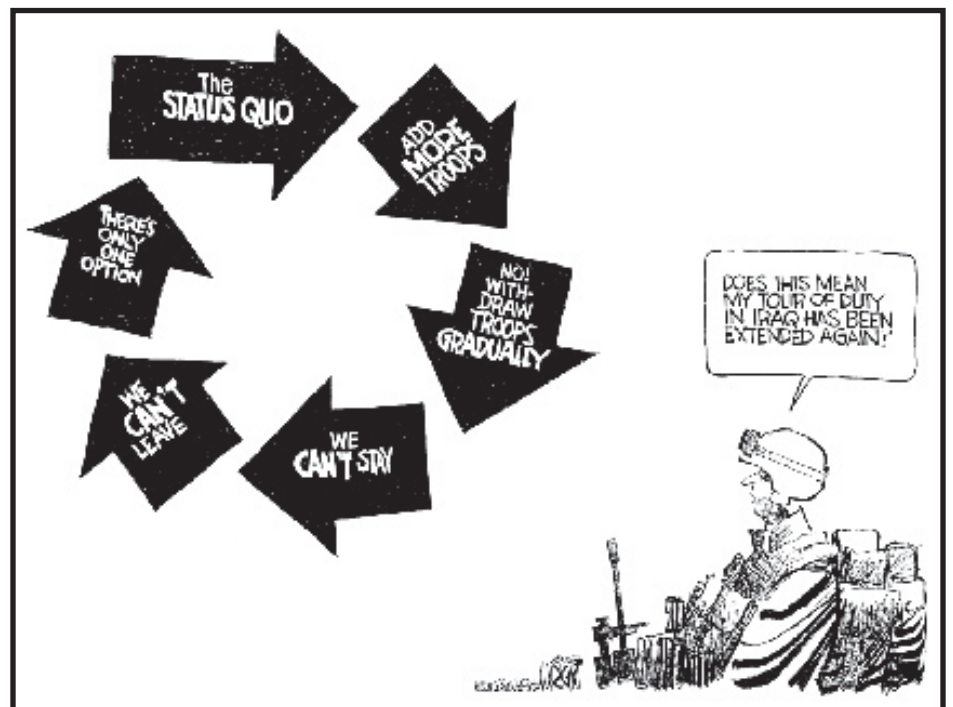
"A student from a homogeneous background comes to a place like MSU where they're exposed to all kinds of different people and points of view and then they go home and dad tells a joke that suddenly isn't funny anymore," Hellman says. "The student may not be as willing to laugh. But do they confront their dad?"

"Parents have to realize that sometimes the college student who comes home is probably a little bit different from the student that left home in August," she says.

Students say they appreciate their parents, even if they don't always agree with them.

"I do remember getting into arguments with my parents because I wanted to have more freedom to come and go as I pleased, but in hindsight, it makes sense that my parents show their worries," Rachel Kay says. "After all, they are parents. They are here to worry about us."

games & cartoons



HOLIDAY PUZZLE



BOWS	GARLAND	MUSIC	SLEIGH
CAKE	GIFTS	NOEL	SNOW
CANDY	GIVING	NUTS	STAR
CARDS	GOD	PARTY	STOCKING
CAROLS	GOODWILL	PIE	TINSEL
CHEER	INN	POPCORN	TOYS
COLD	JESUS	PRESENTS	TRAINS
COOKIES	JOY	REINDEER	TREE
EGGNOG	LIGHTS	ROOFTOPS	WISEMEN
ELVES	MANGER	SANTA	WRAP
FEAST	MISTLETOE	SHOPPING	WREATHS
FRIENDS	MRS CLAUS	SING	YULE

